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28 October 1985

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

ARAB DEVELOPMENT BANK INVOLVEMENT WITH AFRICA VIEWED

Paris AFRIQUE CONTEMPORAINE in French Jul-Aug-Sep 85 pp 65-72

[Text] BADEA's [Arab Bank for African Economic Development] 1984 annual report is particularly useful because it summarizes this institution's activity for the past 10 years. This organization was created as a result of the resolutions adopted by the sixth Arab summit in Algiers at its meeting of 28 November 1973. Its goal is to help the African nations that belong to the OAU [Organization of African Unity] but that do not belong to the League of Arab States. Its headquarters is in Khartoum.

In 10 years BADEA has placed \$669 million at the disposal of African states. Its activity has covered 18 sectors: highways, railroads, sea and river transportation, air transportation, telecommunications, water supply and sewers, dams, bridges, development, rural development, food production, animal husbandry, fishing, agribusiness, forestry development, industry and construction materials, small businesses, textile industry, energy production and infrastructure. Funds were also set up for special programs (\$109,000) and technical assistance (\$150,000).

It should be noted that 51.3 percent of the funds went to four sectors:

- highways: \$172.9 million (25.82 percent)
- energy (infrastructure and production): \$68.9 million (10.2 percent)
- industry and construction materials: \$51.8 million (7.7 percent)
- rural development: \$51.7 million (7.6 percent).

The following figures result if the amounts are divided by sector:

- primary sector (agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, fishing): \$121.6 million (19 percent)
- secondary sector (industry, mines, energy): \$198.4 million (29 percent)
- tertiary sector (services, transportation, telecommunications, town planning): \$346.5 million (52 percent).

This shows that BADEA definitely favors the tertiary sector, but it is impossible to say whether this bias is voluntary or the result of circumstances (request of beneficiary states in particular and relative inexperience in African affairs).

If the figures are given by country, it cannot be said that the bank wanted, or was able, or had to favor one country or another. Zambia received the most money (\$35 million), followed by Burundi (\$32.5 million) and Mali (\$31.8 million), to cite only those countries that received over \$30 million. Out of 38 countries, 12 (or one-third) received half of the funds allocated by BADEA. In descending order these countries are (in millions of dollars):

<u>Country</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Zambia	35.0
Burundi	32.5
Mali	31.9
Cameroon	29.0
Niger	28.9
Benin	28.7
Botswana	28.4
Zimbabwe	28.0
Ghana	27.3
Senegal	24.7
Uganda	20.9
Guinea	20.8

Five of these countries are English-speaking and seven are French-speaking.

It is very difficult to determine the policy behind BADEA's activity. No single criterion (GNP, indebtedness, population) seems to have been particularly favored.

However, it can be emphasized that the bank voluntarily cooperated with other financial assistance organizations, including the FAC, EDF and the CCCE.*

For comparison, in 1984 the CCCE** loaned 5.23 billion francs (approximately \$550 million) to 34 African countries and 5 Caribbean countries. BADEA loans made in 1984 totaled \$88 million. The CCCE favors the productive sector over the tertiary sector.

*FAC: Aid and Cooperation Fund; EDF: European Development Fund; CCCE: Central Fund for Economic Cooperation. These three funds are all French.

**See MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS of 12 April 1984 and AFRIQUE CONTEMPORAINE No. 130, April/May/June 1984.

Breakdown of Financing by Year, Country and Activity (1975-1984)

(in millions of EUA [European Unit of Account] dollars)

<u>Activity/ Country</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Highways</u>											
Botswana										9.000	9.000
Burkina-Faso								9.000			9.000
Burundi			6.000						8.000		14.000
Cameroon						9.000					9.000
Central African Republic							5.000				5.000
Guinea					6.000				9.000		15.000
Kenya					3.900			10.000			10.000
Lesotho											3.900
Madagascar	5.000										5.000
Mali					10.000						10.000
Niger	7.000								8.000		15.000
Rwanda								8.000			8.000
Sierra Leone									8.000		8.000
Zambia		10.000								15.000	25.000
Zimbabwe							10.000	10.000			20.000
<u>Railroads</u>											
Angola					10.000						10.000
Congo	10.000								5.250		15.250
<u>Sea and River Transportation</u>											
Benin			4.600				2.700				7.300
Cameroon		10.000									10.000
Cape Verdi								10.000			10.000
Comoro Islands						8.000					8.000
Guinea-Bissau								10.000			10.000

<u>Activity/ Country</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Air Transportation</u>											
Botswana				7.250							7.250
Central African Republic										4.000	4.000
Congo							10.000				10.000
Gambia					5.200						5.200
Equatorial Guinea									4.700		4.700
Lesotho				6.000							6.000
<u>Telecommunications</u>											
Comoro Islands					1.570						1.570
Mozambique									10.000		10.000
Zimbabwe									8.000		8.000
West African Countries									0.085		0.085
<u>Water Supply and Sewers</u>											
Burundi											4.000
Zaire					10.000						10.000
<u>Dams, Bridges and Municipalities</u>											
Ghana											10.000
Liberia											3.200
Mali											15.000
Sao Tome and Principe										4.000	4.000
<u>Rural Development</u>											
Benin									0.463	8.000	8.463
Burkina-Faso											4.500
Central African Republic									1.450		1.450
Gambia											3.300
Ghana											5.000
Mali											5.000

<u>Activity/ Country</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Rural Development</u>											
(cont'd)											
Niger							5.000				5.000
Rwanda		5.000									5.000
Senegal									5.000		5.000
Sierra Leone						8.500					8.500
Chad									0.050		0.050
<u>Food Production</u>											
Burundi						10.000					10.000
Cape Verdi										0.150	0.150
Ghana	5.000										5.000
Equatorial Guinea										2.800	2.800
Lesotho									3.000		3.000
Tanzania	5.000										5.000
<u>Animal Husbandry</u>											
Botswana				2.199							2.199
Senegal	1.600						0.046				1.646
<u>Fishing</u>											
Angola							10.000				10.000
Cape Verdi					2.400						2.400
Uganda				0.150					0.100	8.000	8.250
Senegal			7.200								7.200
Seychelles										5.000	5.000
<u>Agribusiness</u>											
Mauritania								8.000			8.000
Uganda									8.000		8.000
Sao Tome and Principe									0.150		0.150
<u>Forestry Development</u>											
Madagascar							8.000				8.000

<u>Activity/</u> <u>Country</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Building Materials</u>											
Benin	8.000										8.000
Ivory Coast	3.330										3.330
Ghana	3.330									9.000	12.330
Guinea			4.840								4.840
Mozambique						10.000					10.000
Tanzania			10.000								10.000
Togo	3.340										3.340
<u>Chemical Industry</u>											
Cameroon		10.000									10.000
Senegal						10.000					10.000
<u>Small Business</u>											
BDEAC ¹				5.000							5.000
WADB ²										6.000	6.000
CRAICIM ³					5.000					0.150	0.150
Kenya											5.000
Tanzania										5.000	5.000
Zambia							10.000				10.000
<u>Textile Industry</u>											
Uganda				4.700							4.700
<u>Infrastructure and Energy Production</u>											
Benin									5.000		5.000
Botswana								10.000			10.000
Comoro Islands										6.000	6.000
Liberia				3.920							3.920
Madagascar			9.626								9.626
Mauritania		10.000									10.000
Niger				7.000							7.000
Rwanda			6.000								6.000
Seychelles						1.071					1.071
Sierra Leone		5.000									5.000
Togo									5.000		5.000

<u>Activity/</u> <u>Country</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Special Program</u>											
Burkina-Faso				1.879							1.879
Cape Verdi				0.964							0.964
Ethiopia				0.540							0.540
Gambia				0.598							0.598
Guinea				1.029							1.029
Guinea-Bissau				1.016							1.016
Madagascar				1.908							1.908
Mali				1.860							1.860
Niger				1.868							1.868
Senegal				0.927							0.927
Chad				1.902							1.902
Unexpected expenses				0.109							0.109
<u>Technical Assistance</u>											
CAFRAD ⁴										0.100	0.100
CIPE ⁵										0.165	0.165
Comoro Islands										0.100	0.100
IDEP ⁶										0.095	0.095
PAFNA ⁷										0.150	0.150
TOTAL	71.600	61.800	65.866	54.169	44.070	63.821	60.746	75.000	83.998	87.960	669.030

¹BDEAC = Development Bank of the Central African States

²WADB = West African Development Bank

³CRAICIM = expansion unknown

⁴CAFRAD = African Training and Research Center in Administration for Development

⁵CIPE = expansion unknown

⁶IDEP = African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

⁷PAFNA = PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY

BADEA Activities in 1985

In issue number 91 (May/June 1985) of the ACP-CEE journal LE COURRIER, the following information was given concerning BADEA's activity in 1985.

It was learned in April in Accra that the new financial commitments of the Arab Bank for African Economic Development total \$38.8 million, which will be used for development projects in Africa.

According to a report published in the Ghanaian capital and according to BADEA's president, Chedli Ayari, the Bank's new financial commitments were decided upon during its 32nd ordinary meeting, which took place in December 1984 in Khartoum (Sudan).

BADEA decided to grant \$8 million to rural development in Benin. Four million dollars will be used to expand and modernize the international airport in Bangui (Central African Republic). Equatorial Guinea will receive \$2.8 million to increase its production of cocoa and a \$15 million loan will allow Zambia to improve its highways.

According to the report, loans granted by the Bank during fiscal year 1984 totaled \$87.81 million, and its assistance to African countries between 1975 and 1984 was \$884.413 million (an amount which includes the emergency supplementary aid of \$214.244 million supplied between 1974 and 1977 by the Special Arab Assistance Fund for Africa [FASAA], which has been part of BADEA since 1977).

A new loan of \$9 million granted to Ghana by BADEA will be used to renovate two of the largest wood and plywood factories in the country. Wood provides a major share of receipts coming from Ghanaian exports.

At the end of 1984 financial commitments of the Bank to Ghana totaled \$31.73 million. Earlier loans included \$5 million for improving the cacao plantations in Ashanti (south-central portion of the country) in 1975 and \$10 million for the hydroelectric project in Kpong (south-east section of the country) in 1977.

Ghana also received one-third of a \$10 million supplementary loan granted by the Bank in 1975 for the Cement Company of West Africa (CIMA0) project, in which the Ivory Coast and Togo participated, and, the same year, emergency assistance of \$4.4 million. Between 1975 and 1983 this country received total Arab aid of \$314.6 million.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT, MEETS IN LOME

Lome LA NOUVELLE MARCHE in French 17 Aug 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] Having opened last Tuesday at the February Second Hotel, the Regional Conference on Security, Disarmament and Development in Africa completed its work late yesterday morning.

For 4 days more than one hundred delegates representing African countries as well as international organizations devoted themselves to finding various ways and means of assuring peace and security--essential condition for the real development of our continent.

In addition to a draft declaration on security and development in Africa, the delegates also brought to the floor consideration of an action program for peace, security and cooperation in Africa.

The conference ended with the reading of a declaration of thanks to the President and Founder of the RPT [Rally of the Togolese People] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, and to the government and people of Togo for the warm and authentically African welcome which the participants received during their stay.

During the closing ceremony marked by the presence of several members of the government and a member of the Political Bureau, Minister of Mines, Post and Telecommunications Barry Moussa Barque in turn paid homage to the delegates for their sustained efforts which resulted in the consideration and adoption of the Lome Plan. According to Barry Moussa Barque, this plan (of which the results will be presented in future editions) represents the expression of the willingness of African countries to participate in the creation of peace.

He also recalled that the opportunities presented by the theme of the conference and the ideas contributed are testimony to the willingness of the participants to contribute to the search for solutions to the great problems of our times. These thoughts were reflected in the words of His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations: "disarmament should not to be considered as a problem which solely affects the countries which own nuclear weapons and the industrialized countries. It affects the entire international community."

The importance of the theme of this conference, the first of its kind in Africa, is, in the words of the representative of the chief of state, "to legitimize the idea that the defense of national sovereignty and territorial integrity no longer makes sense if it continues, by its financial repercussions, to prejudice the economic, social and cultural progress of our countries."

That is why, he emphasized, "the search for peace and security among African nations would consequently profit if done within the context of promoting a climate of understanding and mutual comprehension through practicing a permanent good neighbor policy, and by resorting to the methodology of peaceful resolution of differences and the acceleration of regional and sub-regional economic integration."

Finally, he rejoiced in the upcoming creation of the United Nations Regional Center for Disarmament, which represents a timely, historic initiative since Africa happens to be [text missing]. Let us remember that, at another time, at the suggestion of Togo, August 15 was named as the African day for disarmament.

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CSO: 3419/579

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

SAHEL INSTITUTE DIRECTOR DISCUSSES PROJECTS, FINANCING

Ouagadougou SIDWAYA in French 11 Sep 85 p 9

[Interview of director of the Sahel Institute by Cesaire Pooda; date, place not specified]

[Text] After the interview of the general director of the AGRHYMET Center in yesterday's SIDWAYA, today we publish an interview with the director of the Sahel Institute (INSAH) based at Bamako in Mali, under the responsibility of Thomas Ruben, of Gambian nationality.

Question: What is the reason for the Sahel Institute?

Answer: After the severe drought that hit the Sahel countries at the beginning of the 1970's, they organized into an Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), whose executive secretariat is in Ouagadougou. Then, some time later, the CILSS council of ministers decided to establish two specialized institutions, the AGRHYMET Center based in Niamey, devoted to agrometeorological research, and the Sahel Institute located in Bamako.

The latter's role is collection, analysis and dissemination of research results, coordination of research programs, transfer of technology, and training of technicians. In a word, the CILSS was established to help achieve through research the main objectives set by the CILSS, that is, combat of desertification and achievement of food self-sufficiency.

Question: Since the role of the Sahel Institute is to help achieve food self-sufficiency and to participate in combating desertification, has your institute had some effect in these two struggles?

Answer: The Sahel Institute is participating in a large number of regional projects. First of all, the regional project for improving millet, sorghum, niebe and maize, with participation by the eight CILSS countries. Its objective is to identify the varieties of grain that are best adapted to our various ecological zones and distribute them for testing in the countries.

The project is financed by the European Development Fund and has been underway for 4 years. Today, we have reached the stage where the institute is able to

go on to production of the seed for distribution to the farmers.

There is another project involving ecology and the environment. It is financed by the UNSO and involves soil and water conservation, as well as agro-pastoralism.

These are some obvious examples of projects--including the small-scale irrigation project--in which the institute is participating in order to help our countries to achieve the two objectives, yet which have not yet obtained financing. They are being reformulated and will be resubmitted to the donors.

We are also participating in training of technicians and researchers in the member states, with the objective of strengthening the existing research institutes. Likewise, we are working to disseminate information to the states. In regard to general information about the Sahel, the institute produces publications such as LIAISON-SAHEL for researchers of the region, TRAVAUX ET DOCUMENTS, a research journal, and specialized bulletins aimed at those involved in popular education.

Question: We deduce from your statement that INSAH depends mainly on foreign aid. In a project so vital to the Sahel, can we really talk about independence of the Sahel countries, and how do you propose to remedy this situation?

Answer: In fact, the activities of the Sahel Institute are financed as much by contributions of the member states as by the aid agencies and lenders.

Since the drought began in the Sahel our countries have been faced with very serious economic problems, and it has not been possible for them to handle all the projects and programs assigned to the Sahel Institute. That is why we have been obliged to turn to the international community to help us complete the agreed programs.

We must admit that development of the Sahel requires a huge amount of money that our countries are unable to spend at this time. That is why we turn to outside sources of financing.

I do not say that CILSS is totally independent of foreign aid, but I do say that it tries to make best possible use of the limited resources placed at its disposal by the states. I do not view the issue from the perspective of whether or not we are independent, but rather from that of being a community and a combination of efforts to overcome a situation.

In the same way that the countries have come together to combat desertification and food shortage, the international community has brought its support to the Sahel.

Question: What is the status of the Sahel Institute's financing?

Answer: A difficult question. Because of the seriousness of the drought, all our countries are faced with serious economic problems, and some of our donors are also facing their own financial problems, but this year the situation is not bad in that for the 1985 budget we have received virtually

all the dues from the member states. As for the donors, most of them that are financing our various projects make the payments without any problem, since this is part of signed agreements. The problem that we may face in this connection is that some of our projects are soon reaching expiration dates, and there will be a need to undertake further phases, and for that we will need financing.

Despite all of this, things are not at all bad on the financial level, but I cannot be positive about the future, because this does not depend only on the Sahel Institute.

9920

CSO: 3419/602

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

FRENCH AUDIO-VISUAL AID REPORTED

Paris AFRIQUE CONTEMPORAINE in French Jul-Aug-Sep 85 pp 64-65

[Text] Still at the point of fighting for private televisions and the publicity war, Africa already responds to the rhythm of radio and television for education, information and entertainment, as well as for propaganda. French aid in this field is significant, especially in the French-speaking countries.

Paris has set aside an average of five per cent of its FAC funds [Aid and Cooperation Fund] for audio-visual aid (approximately 50 million francs in 1984) and also trains numerous technicians from Arab and Latin American countries.

Moreover, Christian Nucci, minister for cooperation and development, recently emphasized before the Council of Ministers the interest that France has in this form of cultural influence, emphasizing that in 1985 France will participate in the installation of television in Mali, Burundi and Cameroon.

"The arrival of television in the bush is a cultural upheaval," affirmed the minister. From north to south and east to west on the African continent, manifestations of interest multiply for the "magic boxes" with sounds and pictures. This interest is true across all social classes and all generations.

The soldiers from Gunt in Bardai in the north of Chad, the hour having arrived, gather in the shadows, ears glued to their transistors in order to capture the news broadcast from Radio-France International, even if everything reported about their country is displeasing to them. The Djiboutians who chew Khat (a mood elevating herb) listen to the Somali language broadcasts from Mogadiscio as well as the presidential speeches broadcast in their entirety.

Equipped for the most part with national radio stations at the time of independence, the African countries have all been endowed for a dozen years with television, passing directly or very quickly to color. The French-speaking countries adopted the French methodology SECAM [Sequential Memory .pa Color] except for Cameroon which opted for the German procedure PAL [Phase Alternative Line] although 80 per cent of the equipment in Cameroon is furnished by France.

During the past 10 years the National Audio-visual Institute trained 1,200 professional Africans in long courses of instruction. Since 1981, 1,350 people have taken short-term training courses, 250 of whom came from either Arab or Latin American countries.

According to the audio-visual specialists, Africans are, it must be said, very fond of sports programs as well long historic and modern series. The American soap opera, "Dallas", has enjoyed great success.

In 1985, France provided the 21 African countries with whom she has cooperation agreements in this sector a choice of transmissions and international and African news, the latter through RFO [Overseas French Radio and Television]. But the English- and Portuguese-speaking countries such as Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya or Angola are also customers for programs teaching French.

Instruments for internal propaganda, African radio and television, usually government owned, attract interest from foreign countries which transmit to African countries programs in French, English or Portuguese, whether from the USA, the USSR or the RSA [Sports Broadcasting Network] (transmissions directed to the Portuguese-speaking countries of West Africa). They are also ready to offer aid services in this sector, the East Germans being considered as audio-visual specialists by those countries claiming to be Marxist.

The African continent still does not offer television to everyone. Television sets must be imported since assembly lines are rare, with the exception of a country such as Nigeria which has an enormous internal market. But individuals and communities, often with the help of the state, are organizing themselves: community listening centers in Niger and Mali and group subscriptions, especially since the borders are not secure and the prices vary considerably from one country to another.

12308

CSO: 3419/586

BURKINA

ICDCS EVALUATED AFTER 12 YEARS; REORGANIZATION CALLED FOR

Ouagadougou SIDWAYA in French 9 Sep 85 p 1

[Editorial comment on ICDS]

[Text] On 12 September 1973, when the political leaders of what used to be Upper Volta, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Mauritania, and Chad gathered in Ouagadougou and established the [permanent] Interstate Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (ICDCS), what they did was perceived as a decision to fight back against nature's adversity. And rightly so.

Since then two other states (Cape Verde and Gambia) have joined that small band of the original six to devise battle-plans in concert. The international community immediately gathered at the patient's bedside, in the form of such agencies as the Sahel Club, the EEC, and the Industrial Cooperation Organization (OCI).

Twelve years later, the yellowing aid records tell us that since 1975, \$11 billion have been pumped into the Sahel. The verdict is that, paradoxically, the people of the Sahel are no better off. That is disturbing. When we look closely at the overall aid structure, we find that for every \$100 granted to the Sahel countries in 1983 and 1984, 37 percent went to pay for non-project operations (\$13 for technical assistance, \$11 for help with the balance of payments), 25 percent for agriculture and cattle raising, of which only 4 percent went to the dry-field food crops that feed 90 percent of the Sahel's people, and 2 percent to ecological and environmental projects.

These figures are food for thought, and raise a cloud of questions. In truth, did that aid really work to succor the victims of the Sahel tragedy? There is room for doubt. And the ICDCS, 12 years later, is still blazoning its ill-founded banners exhorting us to "produce or perish."

The fact of the matter is that, instead of perishing because it failed to produce, the community of 30 million souls that teems in the Sahel is drowning, its head barely high enough above the water to keep from sinking. As a consequence, what has been created in the Sahel is a welfare mentality, one that has perilously degraded and undermined any notion of independence.

This 12th anniversary of the creation of ICDCS affords an occasion for an examen of conscience and for an honest and courageous resumption of dialogue with our partners, aimed at persuading them to revise their policies by mutual consent. Why? Because the policy and underlying philosophy of aid to the Sahel needs revision from top to bottom if we want such exhortations as "Self-sufficiency in food" and "struggle against desertification" to be more than a meaningless list of wishes.

At the same time, this 12th anniversary is the time to set about our own self-criticism. We venture, to that end, to cast a critical eye on the way in which our common institution, ever since its creation, has often been piloted and managed and which, unquestionably, has on occasion overloaded its credibility. Let us bear constantly in mind -- today more than ever -- that the ICDCS is the child of suffering, and let us make it the theme that will inspire a new philosophical approach for it.

The truth is that the context of its birth haunts us still, 12 years after the fact, and that therefore we must overcome it, whatever the cost. That concept scorns the easy way out, and in its place ensconces rigor in the work ethic, a steely rigor that will take the place of the manifold advantages ostensibly represented by our cadres from the international organizations, drawn from the hopeless desolation of the masses.

In this sense, the idea of reorganizing the ICDCS, adopted by the latest extraordinary meeting of ministers at Niamey last May, is to be encouraged. And if we are to arrive at such results, there must be a pitiless scrutiny of the entire ICDCS system. No relenting. The people of the Sahel are watching. Upon the seriousness and dedication with which the political leaders approach the issue will depend the quality of the result as well as the final judgment the people of the Sahel will pass upon them.

6182

CSO: 3419/579

BURKINA

GRADUATION OF 13TH ARMORED ENGINEERS CADET CLASS CELEBRATED

Ouagadougou SIDWAYA in French 9 Sep 85 p 4

[Article by A.T. Junior]

[Text] The ranks of the People's Army have just been strengthened with the graduation of the 13th cadet class of the 3rd battalion of the People's Reserve (BPR) from the Engineer/Tank Corp training center. These comrades from sectors 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19, and 20 have spent 3 weeks learning the rudiments of military life.

The ceremony held in sector 17 last Friday before Comrade Capt Dudidie Tietiembu, Comrade Capt Lai Guire of the Army Engineers, and delegates from the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR) from the sectors concerned.

This class, which chose to be known as the "Georges Namoano" class, pledged, through its delegate, to behave responsibly and properly to exercise the powers, missions, and duties the people expect of it. The 13th-class comrades signed motions and recommendations supporting the CNR, calling for intensified political, ideological, and military training, and thanking the men who trained them.

Comrade Tietiembu, who heads the Armored Unit (GB), spoke to the new members of the CNR, telling them that "Imperialism will meet its Dien Bien Phu in Burkina." He told them that the CNR has confidence in them and in the government to unmask all enemies of the people. The corps leaders and sector delegates then delivered citations to 15 or so of the newly trained soldiers, then reviewed their final parade.

Elsewhere, a number of activists at the Office for Promotion of Burkina Enterprise (OPEB) got 2 weeks' training from the National Revolutionary Gendarmerie; they are the 10th class of activists to be trained by the GNR. Closing ceremonies for their graduates also took place on Friday 6 September.

6182

CS0: 3419/579

CHAD

END OF DROUGHT FOR NGOURI SUBPREFECTURE

Ndjamena INFO-TCHAD in French 20 Aug 85 p 3

[Article by Mbodou Seid: "1985: A Promising Year for the Ngouri Subprefecture"]

[Text] The year 1985 "is a promising year for the Ngouri subprefecture," Mr Mahamat Aboukary, the local subprefect, stated after a heavy rain fell on that lake town on 16 August. This small sentence reflects the hopes of many inhabitants of this subprefecture which, until the start of the current rainy season, was a good illustration of the disaster caused in our regions in the past 10 years by the great Sahel drought and the accompanying famine, and the resulting deaths through food poisoning and chronic malnutrition. With the start of the rainy season, hope came back: the farmers who had turned traders by force of circumstance deserted the town to return to the fields already at 6 am, and came back only at sunset. From Balladja to Ngouri and Doum-Doum, everything seems to indicate that the lean-cow years are now just a sad memory. It is raining almost every day and, according to farmers, all indications point to good crops.

The subprefect was pleased to acknowledge that the current agricultural campaign is most promising. Millet plants are beginning to form ears. Everything is green and fat livestock is moving about in a landscape of lush pastures.

The people, however, are faced with problems; they must work for the future "good crops," and at the same time face the pre-harvest period that promises to be tough. All the more so as the food supplies received as emergency aid are now insufficient and as there is an acknowledged shortage of drinking water. In Doum-Doum, for instance, none of the water pumps is working, and over half of the 20 pumps in the subprefecture are out of service. But the signs of hope among this population that has suffered from the drought for so long are mainly that the men who left the Ngouri subprefecture because of the drought are now coming back. The farmers are not the only ones to have recovered their enthusiasm and the use of the hoe. Officials, led by the subprefect, are discovering this implement. Every afternoon, they go down to the outskirts of Ngouri to plough their plots of land, encouraged as they are by the good rainfall. It goes without saying that the Chadian people are well aware of drought-related problems and want to contribute to approaching food self-sufficiency.

9294
CSO: 3419/561

CHAD

CST OFFICIAL REFUTES ARTICLE RAPPING UNION

Ndjamena AL-WATAN IN French 10 Aug 85 pp 7-9

[Article: "Right to Reply"]

[Text] The article published in our weekly No 330 dated 27 July, entitled "The Chadian Labor Union Movement is Losing Momentum," aroused some echos in union circles. The general secretary of the Chadian Labor Union Confederation, for his part, chose to exercise his right to reply, as he was entitled to. However, we wish to make it clear that the weekly AL-WATAN opens his columns to any militant of our movement wishing to express himself in the context of the policy outlined by the government of the Third Republic. Light will often spring out of useful discussions and debates. In view of this, we feel that we cannot condemn the article in question, and what right would we have to do so? It is up to union members to assess it, and you did just that.

Finally, we wish to point out that the right to reply should not exceed 50 lines, no matter how long the "controversial" article was.

"The Chadian Labor Union Movement is Losing Momentum" took up only one and a half page in our columns.

In any democratic society, citizens have the right to express their point of view. Plurality of opinion, when soundly exercised, can constitute a positive factor in social life.

The Chadian Labor Union Confederation carefully read the article entitled "The Credibility of the Chadian Labor Union Movement is Losing Momentum" which was published in the 27 July 1985 issue of the great national weekly AL-WATAN under the signature of Annour Djibrine Abdoulaye. In this article, charges were made against the Chadian Labor Union Confederation (CST). To defend itself, the CST is reacting, making use of its right to reply, in order to clarify the confusion that the author of the article seems to be trying to spread among labor circles.

We are not going to engage into a dead-end controversy, far from it--although the deliberately accusing tone of the article, written with some zeal and whose instigators are easy to guess, seems to invite us to do just that; however, at an informal extraordinary meeting, the executive bureau of the CST decided to answer the following points: 1) The author of the article "starts" his statement right away with accusations. As is done with accusations, no precise example is given to support his theory that the Chadian Labor Union Movement is losing momentum.

Probably to conceal his notorious anti-labor-union feelings, the author saw it fit to make this monstrous statement: "The Chadian labor union movement is now going through particularly bad times that are not the result of its history, its traditions or what is happening in the country. It is plagued essentially by the division of workers through existing labor union organizations." However, the author of the article does not state explicitly how this division of workers materializes in actual fact. Since the advent of the Third Republic, workers have always celebrated May Day together, irrespective of any labor union differences.

For its part, the CST feels that the young Chadian labor union movement does not deserve so much criticism, since it has just emerged for good in New Chad and is in the process of establishing its structures. In spite of its young age, it has already completed many structuring projects: rebuilding of the Ndjamena Labor Exchange that had been destroyed during the fighting; actual start-up of several village-cooperative projects. In its commitment to national reconstruction, the young labor union movement contributes through the CST to help those of our compatriots that were displaced by war and natural disasters, with a gift of 50,000 tons of food to the victims of disasters, food offered to Chadian workers by their comrades from abroad. Still in the context of national solidarity, our Labor Union Organization has lent four of its heavy-duty trucks to those in charge of reaching isolated areas of our country, to distribute food to the geographic Ouaddai, to the BET [Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti] and to the Guera, from 1983 to this year, 1985. Our organization is continuing its program for future social and community programs. The author's opinion that we are losing sight of workers' rights, therefore appears to us unjustifiably rabid, although this may be merely the result of precipitate writing.

The author of the article speaks of disorganization in labor union demands. He displays an unbelievable ignorance of the suits won by our Labor Union Organization against dishonest employers. 2) as far as it is concerned, the CST does not believe that an "hegemonic orientation of labor union activities" can be effective. It can absolutely not feel concerned by the accusation made in the article in question, for it is working and will work to unite workers and reconstruct devastated Chad. In international forums, where it was invited on several occasions, as well as at home, its language has always been that of responsibility in labor union action, to ensure that Chadian workers fully participate in the liberation of their country. How many meetings has it not organized since 1982, where the leading theme was the unity of Chadian workers! And what should we say of the workers' demonstrations of May Day 1985, during which the leading representatives of the working masses denounced Libyan militarism in Chad through a protest march? Is that not a

surge for unity? In a country that is as coveted as ours, that courageously confronts the many problems and challenges of this world of dominators, the CST, in its labor union activities, has always encouraged its members to understand and take responsibility for their rights and duties by actively supporting the national cause.

3) The CST believes that the statement made by the author of the article, that "partisan labor union decisions" were being made right now, is frankly without any basis. Our labor union organization is not aware of ever entering such a maze. Perhaps the author of the article, writing from a deviationist point of view, intended to create such a climate of "partisan labor union decision." In that case, all labor union members who are not opportunists can predict him a resounding failure.

4) As a labor union organization operating under the law, the CST believes that it has a right, like all other sectors contributing to the country's development, to make use of public information organs--which by the way are operated with the help of workers--to inform the public of what it has achieved for Chadian workers. And we may also ask why is it that the attacker of the emerging Chadian labor union movement assumes the right to express his point of view in an organ that belongs to the Chadian State, although he would deny that right to labor union members? To the extent that the working masses have the right to receive explanations from their Labor Union Organization on its activities, it is legitimate for the CST to use public means of communication. Therefore, we believe that the statement made by the author of the article, that we are using the media as "loudspeakers," which would bring about a succession of conflicts, denigrations, confrontations, etc., is entirely uncalled for. Our Labor Union Organization challenges its detractors to prove that it was ever the cause of these evils, which are merely a figment of the author's imagination.

5) Through its vast training program (which any interested citizen can consult in our archives), the CST has made a commitment to workers and labor union education. Numerous seminars have been organized both in Chad and abroad. Tens of young labor union members benefited from them, including--an irony of fate--Annour Djibrine Abdoulaye whom the CST sent to France for labor union training! And according to our planning, we send on the average one delegate abroad every month, for training periods or labor union seminars, and all those delegates are young workers. Can there be anything more concrete than to contribute to the promotion of our country's working youth in this manner? We do not understand what the author of the article means when he tries to give us a lesson in labor unionism, when he says that we should start with the ABC of labor unionism.

Concerning another "vision" of the author of the article, viz. that the number of our members is declining, the executive bureau of our organization is ready to supply information, supported by figures, showing that the number of CST militants keeps increasing. We therefore formally refute the statement made in the article.

6) Finally, the author of the article is obviously obsessed with one word: demagoguery. He knows that, as part of its responsible contribution to

national reconstruction, our Labor Union Organization is represented in the country's highest political organization. Therefore, we do not know what he is driving at with the accusation of demagoguery with which some seem to want to "label" labor union leaders who defend the workers' interests within the UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution]. Or we must yield to the evidence that the author is going against the current of Chadian workers' activities.

To remove any doubt, the executive bureau of the CST wishes to inform the readers of our great newspaper of information and combat, AL-WATAN, that the author of the article exceeded the limits of his labor union responsibilities within the FESCIT [expansion unknown]. It is demagoguery indeed when he makes abusive use of his title of assistant general secretary of his Labor Union Federation without consulting its members, while stating that he was acting in his name alone. And since he also appends his title of member of the National Rejuvenation Council to this defamatory article, we wish to point out that CST members were intimately connected with the struggle against the Libyan enemy and took part in the fight against the invader at all stages.

Well-informed workers will have to watch out for fake militants and phonies.

Boukar Barka, general secretary of the CST

9294

CSO: 3419/595

CHAD

UNIR CENTRAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS SAID 'REALISTIC'

Ndjamena INFO-TCHAD in French 6 Sep 85 pp 2-6

[Text] The 80 members of the Central Committee of the Union for Independence and Revolution (UNIR) who met with President Habre for the movement's second regular session conducted a review, as we reported earlier, of all aspects of our national life. In a plenary session during these past 3 weeks, as well as in working commissions, they methodically proceeded to a detailed evaluation of the country's progress, of what has been done as well as what remains to be done or improved. The recommendations passed by this ranking political body reflect, at the economic, social, and other levels, a constructive realism. They reflect the letter and the spirit of admonitions by the President of the Republic, who has constantly warned his fellow-citizens against the folly of chasing after impossible dreams. The UNIR recommendations, especially at the economic level, were inspired by a speech from the UNIR president and founder, who called for increased energy in the work of recovery through a strenuous shakeup in government management practices along with cost-efficient utilization of human and material resources, while bearing in mind the need to continue the good fight against slackness and corruption.

That discourse itself translates the way things are in the real world. The UNIR CC members fully grasped its meaning, and set forth specific points on each of its aspects explaining and justifying its recommendations on economic, financial, and developmental issues. In their view, Chad is a country whose vocation is essentially an agricultural and pastoral one, but it has been forced by drought and famine to seek food assistance from outside. As a result, self-sufficiency becomes a priority that can be achieved if we use our water resources wisely and provide adequate instruction and leadership to our farmers. From another angle, if we are to collect our bills adequately and provide better distribution of the products of our factories to our people, we must regulate our domestic and foreign trade and do our utmost to stamp out the widespread fraud that dangerously undermines our economy.

Like the recommendations dealing with economic and developmental matters, the other recommendations center on the well-being of the Chadian citizen, whose level of political consciousness it is more necessary than ever to raise in these times. CC members think doing that will call for providing the nation with a school system better adapted to the way things are here, even as we strive to eradicate illiteracy. They believe it is also important to redesign our media outlets to enable them to do a better job at consciousness-raising and getting their readers interested in issues.

Following are the recommendations on economic, financial, and developmental issues as well as those concerning education, communications, and extension work.

Recommendations on Economic, Financial, and Developmental Matters

The Central Committee:

1. Recommends that the government continue its efforts to upgrade and encourage dry-gulch (wadi) farming and to develop irrigation practices as a step (among others) toward self-sufficiency in food;
2. Recommends that the government do everything possible to establish advanced learning centers in agronomy, veterinary sciences, and zootechnology;
3. Recommends that the government step up its fight against desertification by increasing the numbers of tree nurseries, methodical reforestation in threatened zones, and establishing green belts around urban centers;
4. Recommends that the government rehabilitate the national parks, the wildlife reserves, and tourist attractions, as well as keeping close watch on wildlife protection, especially rare species;
5. Urgently call on all Chadians at whatever level to take a keener interest in working the land;
6. Appeal to the national community to help restore, protect, develop, and follow efficient practice in managing cattle herds;
7. Support government action designed to develop the rural world;
8. Take note of government actions and encourage it in its efforts to establish an agricultural banking institution;
9. Applaud the efforts made by agricultural extension agents and call on them to persevere in spreading and popularizing modern farming techniques;

Recommendations On Education, Communication and Motivation

The Central Committee :

1. Recommends raising the level of teacher recruitment and enhancing the dignity of the teaching profession by creating conditions designed to attract people to that career, including a special status for teachers.
2. Recommends that the government pursue and intensify its policy of teacher-training at all levels.
3. Recommends that the government take exceptional and appropriate emergency measures to help children of displaced populations.
4. Recommends that the government solicit the attention of the international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in order to expand their assistance to these populations;
5. Recommends that the government remain cognizant of State priorities in awarding grants and in monitoring their use.
6. Recommends that the government encourage scientific research (basic and applied), provide existing facilities with men and money, and establish a national research institute.
7. Recommends that government introduce instruction in civics at all levels through synchronizing the school system with the new political, economic, social, and cultural orientation of the Third Republic.
8. Recommends that government pursue and intensify literacy campaigns.
9. Recommends that government exercise judgment in selection and vigilance in monitoring films and increase its audio-visual activities and production of documentary films dealing with great national events all over the country.

6182

CSO: 3419/597

CHAD

SUCCESS OF REFORESTATION PROJECT REPORTED

Ndjamena AL-WATAN in French 10 Aug 85 pp 1-3

[Article by Laoukoura Sa-Ndoudjinang]

[Text] National Arbor Week generated a demonstrably high level of enthusiasm: 24,000 trees were planted in less than one week. By planting a tree on 3 August 1985 at Lamadji, some 10 kilometers from N'Djamena in a ceremony fraught with symbolism, President El-Hadj Hissein Habre fired the opening gun in the war against the natural enemy that goes by the name of desertification. More than 3,000 people responded whole-heartedly on this first day of our National Arbor Week, over which the president personally presided.

To mark the occasion, the Minister for Tourism, Waters, and Forests, Comrade Ali Djalbord Diard delivered an address. The minister launched at once into remarks that underscored the importance, the goal, and the hope of the ceremony: "To awaken our fellow-citizens to the threat of this phenomenon of desertification that has hung menacingly over our country for a decade. This national duty is dictated by findings of dead standing trees, by an absence of natural regeneration of growth in vegetation resulting from widespread and very seriously deficient rainfall." This situation, unfortunately, encourages the persistence of drought and hastens the encroachment of the desert.

Another scourge, this one human in its origin, is deforestation. More than 40,000 hectares of forests have been destroyed. That means that every man and woman in Chad will be called upon to make special efforts to protect their forests, because the pace of deforestation is running far ahead of our puny efforts at reforestation.

In this particular area, integrated rural development projects are one strategic factor in the struggle against desertification.

To this end, an Interministerial Study and Planning Office, involving the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, Livestock and Rural Water, and Tourism, Waters, and Forests has been formed to enable us to reach this goal.

All Chadians must take the utmost advantage of this fine season, with plenty of rainfall, to win back our lost lands by planting lots and lots of trees. In his address to the nation on 2 August the head of state intended, by calling on the nation, "to stress our common determination to take a firm, courageous stand from now on against this typical pattern of natural aggression: desertification with its corollary of deforestation."

"For a whole decade, drought has systematically decimated all that lives in Chad; sparing no species -- animal, vegetable, or human -- and in so doing has implacably punished Chad's people already sorely tried by war and chronic under-development, said the chief of state: "El-Hadj Hissein Habre has been quick to alert the people to the phenomenon and its spread. This is why he had to declare for all to hear that the situation in the Sahel is indeed this alarming and the international community increasingly sensitive to the problem decided that the question must be raised at numerous conferences and proclaimed 1985 the International Year of the Forest."

The President's appeal did not fall on deaf ears and the activist people of the capital responded fully to it. That is how it came about that these 24,000 trees were planted in less than a single week. They are now asking for more seedlings so they can continue the operation. However, the people at the top in the Waters and Forests Ministry preferred to focus the operation on equally ready and willing peasant populations. Accordingly, they distributed 60,000 seedlings to the people of Karal, Manille, and several localities in the rural Sub-prefecture of Chari-Baguirmi. In other words, our people have been totally mobilized.

It is, however, not enough to go out and plant trees. The problem arises when it comes to maintaining them. Here again, the Tourism Waters, and Forests Ministry has made all appropriate plans -- barring another siege of inadequate rainfall. Anyhow, for the time being more than 500 workers have been recruited with the help of the World Food Program (PAM), which stepped in through its Food for Work distribution plan, since the government lacks funds to pay these workers.

Their assignment is to water and weed these seedlings at the proper intervals. Four varieties have been selected for planting: the *Kaya senegalensis* (cail-cedrat or mourai), *Azadiracta indica* (nime), and *Prosopis juliflora* (sempervirens), all evergreen species. These trees are now planted along the Avenue Gaourang (Canal Saint-Martin in N'Djamena).

In the opinion of the director-general of the Ministry of Tourism, Waters, and Forests, Mr Ali Ngaram, "National Arbor Week" which he sees as the simplest possible way to restore our country's forests, is an operation crucial to Chad's survival in its battle against the encroaching deserts. If this operation is to succeed, it must not stop here. According to Mr Ngaram, every citizen of Chad, regardless of his social standing, must spontaneously do his part in

this civic duty incumbent upon every one of us. Every Chadian must pitch in and help with the tending and above all the protection of plant-life against cattle, and wildfires at some places in our countryside.

This message must go out via every medium in Chad so as to arouse our people's sense of urgency. The people must stop destroying the forest for firewood. The right way to stop this ravaging of the forests is to popularize use of technical improvements in cook-stove design so as to stem the excessive consumption of wood.

Establishment of a Farm-Woods-Pasture Code by the interministerial study and planning office was motivated by the need to put an end to such wasteful practices at every level. That code will make it possible to administer projects involving all components of the rural environment. Lastly, according to Mr Ngaram, the importance of the "Green Sahel" operation (National Arbor Week was only one link in the vast international project of the Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (ICDS), and so the Chadian government must redouble the efforts it has already put forth to provide the Tourism, Waters, and Forests Ministry with the material (vehicular) and human (training qualified agents) means to master this natural aggression in the long term.

At the Office of Meteorology, they say that, despite the slight decline in rainfall during the third 10-day period in July, the plants have not suffered, thanks to the reserves of groundwater stored during the first and second 10-day periods in July.

The hydrologists report a slight drop in the flow of the Chari and Logone Rivers toward the end of the third 10-day period, but that drop was swiftly rectified in the early days of August.

The Water-Service people report that the inner arms of Lake Chad are beginning to fill, and that is indeed encouraging. They explained the decline in rainfall recently by the absence of atmospheric warming, a necessary condition for raincloud formation. As for the Intertropical Front (See AL-WATAN 330) (ITF), it was dawdling on 5 August along the 22nd parallel North over Chad, which means that it will stay a while over the Aouzou region, and that the situation will hold favorable for us for a while, at least.

6182

CSO: 3419/594

COMORO ISLANDS

MOHAMED CHAHER ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC SITUATION

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 27 Aug 85 p 4

[Interview with Mohamed Chaher, secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Mauritius; name of interviewer and date not given]

[Text] Sojourning in Mauritius, Mr Mohamed Chaher, secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Comoros, who is also acting as head of the Comoros delegation here attending the Second Meet of the Island Games, affirms the intent to bring the Comoros out of their isolation. Mr Mohamed Chaher also comments on regional cooperation, the political situation in the Comoros, and the health of the Comoran economy, among other things. The following is from an interview with Mr Mohamed Chaher.

[Question] As of now, what is the extent of relations between the Comoros and the Island of Mauritius?

[Answer] It is difficult to quantify those relations. But even before independence, the businessmen of our two countries were already doing business with each other in a number of different sectors. Since 1978, these relations have become more official. For example, the services of the firm De Chazal du Mee are widely used in the Comoros. We are expecting much to materialize from the Mauritian foreign minister's visit to the Comoros. That visit is of current interest and is imminent. Cooperation agreements could in fact be signed and ambassadors accredited between our two countries.

[Question] What is your concept of cooperation at a regional level?

[Answer] As everyone knows, we are full-fledged members of the Indian Ocean Commission. We want to develop our relations with the countries of the region. Regional cooperation is necessary to the development of Africa. I believe it is important for the countries of the region to seek to develop relations among themselves, for there is among us an element of complementarity that must not, under any circumstances, be neglected. Only to the extent that a solidly-based cooperation is established among ourselves will we then be able to open our doors to other countries.

[Question] What is your view of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace?

[Answer] We have always advocated an Indian Ocean free of all tensions and sheltered from all conflicts--a true zone of peace. We want a de-nuclearized Indian Ocean. We also reject any and all hegemonism whatsoever. All tension must give way to dialogue between the countries of the region.

[Question] What about your dispute with France regarding the status of Mayotte?

[Answer] Let us briefly review the past, if you will. In December 1974, the referendum showed that the overwhelming majority of Comorians, 99 percent of them, that is, were for independence. The 1976 agreements with France stated the readiness of the Comoros--that is, of the four islands that comprise the archipelago: Grand Comoro, Anjouan, Moheli and Mayotte--for independence. The French Government leaders have also reaffirmed this readiness. Nevertheless, against the course of history, France decided to keep Mayotte under its thumb. It is up to France, therefore, to find a just solution to the problem of Mayotte in accordance with the statements of the UN, of the OAU [Organization of African Unity], and of the Islamic Conference, on the territorial integrity of the archipelago, all of which recognize Mayotte as being an integral part of the Comoros. We have neither the means nor the desire to declare war on France. We are hoping that diplomacy will help find a solution. The ball is in France's court.

[Question] From time to time, the international press reports on the presence of "mercenaries" in the archipelago. Are these the same ones who helped President Abdallah retrieve the Government?

[Answer] Actually, that press makes more of an issue of this question than is warranted by the facts. However, it passes in silence over the fact that Ali Solih's regime seized power with the help of mercenaries. That the mentioned regime maintained black and white mercenaries who terrorized the population. No one mentions the tyranny of those mercenaries, which lasted for 3 years.

Answering the call of the Comorian people, President Abdallah came forth and put an end to Ali Solih's tyrannical regime. For that, he had to have outside help, in terms of both manpower and money. But clearly, within the country he had the backing of the population; for, 50 men cannot, by themselves, overturn a regime. True, there are still some foreigners--call them "mercenaries" if you so desire; but note that since 1978 there have been democratic elections in the Comoros, for the election of the president as well as the deputies of the National Assembly.

The foreigners presently in the Comoros are working on the staffing of the presidential guard and of the Comorian armed forces. Note that the same

press that speaks of the presence of mercenaries in the Comoros, breathes not a word regarding the presence of the Koreans, the Cubans and who knows whom else.

The Comorian Government is a democratically elected government...

[Question] An attempted coup d'etat recently dominated the Comorian press, and this while President Abdallah was abroad. Just what did actually happen?

[Answer] President Abdallah was outside the country when the Comorian armed forces uncovered a plot involving the presidential guard. This plot had ramifications at the higher civil administration levels. These highly placed officials belonged to a Marxist-Leninist movement. They sought to bring about an all-out revolution, to bring down all the country's structures. Fortunately, the Comorian armed forces acted promptly and arrested the plotters and their accomplices. Some 50 persons were arrested. Investigations followed and the arrested persons will be turned over to the courts in coming weeks. One news medium has spoken of 600 arrests. That figure is grossly exaggerated. As I have said to you, there were no more than 50 arrests.

[Question] The Comoros have signed defense agreements with France. What are the principal features of these agreements?

[Answer] Actually, we have entrusted France--a country to which history has bound us--with the defense of the Comoros' borders.

[Question] What is the state of the Comorian economy?

[Answer] Much has been done, but much remains to be done. At the present time, we are trying to institute health care infrastructures by means of which first-aid services can be made available to the Comorians. For major illnesses, we rely, as you know, at times on Reunion, at times on France, and at times on Mauritius. But the international crisis that is presently affecting all countries is not sparing the Comoros. The small countries are the ones that suffer the most from this crisis. For example, because of the economic crisis, our sales of vanilla and cloves have been very bad these past 2 years. We hope we can look forward to improved prices for these products.

[Question] Your relations with Madagascar were tense at one time. What is their present state?

[Answer] Relations between Madagascar and the Comoro Islands today are marked by a new and happy renaissance which has been translated by President Abdallah's recent visit to Madagascar on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its independence and the 10th anniversary of its Revolution. These relations have been resumed on a sound footing. Agreements have been signed. Diplomatic representation will now be required.

[Question] What is the outlook for the Comorian tourist industry?

[Answer] The Comoros have a high touristic potential. We must still install infrastructures. We must also proceed to the unlocking of the Comoros. But these things must be done slowly. We are very jealous of our identity. We must work towards a tourism that will safeguard our cultural identity.

9238

CSO: 3419/607

GHANA

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTRY FIRM ON SALARY PAYMENTS

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 17 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Joe Bradford Nyinah]

[Text] The Ministry of Local Government will not change its stand on the payment of 50 percent of the salaries and allowances of council employees by the various city and district councils.

Addressing a news conference in Accra yesterday, the Secretary for Local Government, Mr F.A. Jantuah, said the claim by some councils that they are not capable of meeting these commitments was due to financial mismanagement and malpractices by these councils.

Citing a recent auditors' report of the Kumasi City Council (KCC) to support his claim, the Secretary disclosed that between February and August 1984, the council made an overpayment to the tune of ¢1,173,524 on various contracts.

The Secretary said huge sums of monies were lost through the issue of false certificates by Mr Anto Kwakwa, Principal Works Superintendent of the council and these were approved by a former executive chairman of the council.

Mr Jantuah said the council engaged contractors on various projects whilst its carpenters, masons and other artisans remained idle and made purchases without Local Purchase Orders (LPOs).

He said the council also violated contract procedures and disregarded his ministry's directives in the award of 23 contracts worth more than ¢16 million.

Among other irregularities in the council, the Secretary mentioned the disposal by public auction of the council's vehicles, plants and equipment without authority from the ministry.

Mr Jantuah said he would present a copy of the report to the Office of the Co-ordinator for Investigations, Vetting and Tribunals for the culprits to be prosecuted if necessary.

Asked whether he thought the smaller councils could afford to pay the 50 percent salaries and allowances, the Secretary said those councils were also involved in comparable malpractices.

He said the councils could engage in various projects to raise enough funds to meet their commitments.

Mr Jantuah said the malpractices have been going on within the councils because some of them had refused to form their INCs, thus leaving the councils administration in the hands of only a few people.

CSO: 3400/89

GOVERNMENT WORKERS' SALARIES TO BE PAID THROUGH BANKS

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 17 Sep 85 p 4

[Text]

GOVERNMENT employees will as from next November, be paid through the banks.

Mr I. D. Ewum-Tohma, the newly-appointed Controller and Accountant-General, in an interview in Accra yesterday, said he has already directed that November 1985 salaries of government employees should be paid through the banks.

However, wage earners would continue to be paid on the pay vouchers, he said.

According to Mr Ewum-Tohma, all government salaried employees are requested to open personal accounts with any bank of their choice through which their salaries would be paid.

He said the new measures followed insecurity of the physical movement of huge sums of money during pay days. Mr Ewum-Tohma explained that every salary earner would have to inform his employer to indicate the name and address of his

banker on a copy of the payroll which should reach him by October 30, this year.

Any salary earner who does not open an account will have himself to blame when the cash mode of payment is stopped in November, he said.

"In this connection, all adjustments (especially deletions and deductions to be made in salaries of employees) should be sent by Vote Controllers/Spending Officers directly to the Controller and Accountant-General or the Chief Treasury Officer, Central Pay Unit and copied to the head office of the respective institution, he said.

Mr Ewum-Tohma said a circular containing the directive has been sent to all acting chief directors, heads of departments, chief, regional and district treasury officers, director-general of the Education Service and the Auditor-General.

The letter has also been copied to the PNDC Secretary for Finance and Economic Planning, he said — GNA.

CSQ: 3400/88

GHANA

MILITIAMEN TO RECEIVE WEAPONS TRAINING TO CURB SMUGGLING

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 14 Sep 85 p 8

[Text]

A CRASH programme to train militiamen throughout the country in weapon handling will start before the major cocoa season begins, Brigadier A. N. Tehn-Addy, Commander and Chairman of the Civil Defence Organisation (CDO), announced at Hohoe on Thursday.

Addressing militiamen in the Hohoe and Jasikan districts of the Volta Region, Brigadier Tehn-Addy said after the training, weapons would be issued out to the militiamen to combat cocoa smuggling in an anti-cocoa smuggling operation which starts from next month to April next year.

Brigadier Tehn-Addy, however, warned that the weapons would be issued only for self-defence and the CDO would not tolerate their indiscriminate use.

"Weapon carrying is a heavy responsibility. It is no licence to kill since any bullet used would have to be accounted for," he added.

Relationship

Brigadier Tehn-Addy noted that the task of militiamen is a noble one and advised them to comport themselves as responsible citizens to bring about improvement in relations between the police, military and the general public.

He advocated joint operations of the Police, Armed Forces and the public to ensure mutual trust, co-operation and unity which are necessary for the stability of the country.

Brigadier Tehn-Addy described the militiamen as modern "Asafo" companies or genuine patriots who must be concerned with the welfare of their communities.

"You must do away with slogan shouting and engage in development programmes which would generate income for development and offer leadership in environmental development such as communal labour," he said. — GNA

CSO: 3400/88

GHANA

PNDC DEEMPHASIZING USE OF FOREIGN EXPERTS

Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 17 Sep 85 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Secretary for Finance and Economic Planning, Dr Kwesi Botchwey, has said that the PNDC is very much concerned with the employment of foreign experts to the relative neglect of equally qualified Ghanaians.

Dr Botchwey noted that whenever the country had had to accommodate foreign experts on certain bilateral projects, indigenous experts became frustrated.

Speaking at a plenary session of the Ghana-Federal Republic of Germany Joint Commission on Economic Co-operation in Accra yesterday, the Secretary promised that in subsequent stand-by agreements with the World Bank and new programmes with donor countries and other financial institutions the Government would address itself seriously to the issue in an effort to use indigenous experts to boost their morale.

Dr Botchwey announced that the Gross Domestic Product (G.D.P.) for the country this year was expected to be about five percent and that the inflation rate had been reduced from 119 percent to 40 percent.

Agriculture performed better as compared to the other sectors, registering a growth rate of 10 percent.

CSO: 3400/89

GHANA

OBENG DISCUSSES ROLE OF PNDC, SECRETARIES

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 17 Sep 85 pp 1, 5

[Text] Mr P.V. Obeng, chairman of the Committee of Secretaries, has said that the process of internal self-criticism is a feature in human life that must be encouraged in the development of the country.

Mr Obeng was commenting in a GBC interview on the recent criticism by the Chairman of the PNDC, Flt-Lt J.J. Rawlings, that some ministerial secretaries and other leaders of the revolution had not been performing their duties as expected of them.

He said those criticisms must be appreciated and understood because "it took place in the right spirit."

Mr Obeng, who is also a member of the PNDC, said: "A lot of them are doing their best. But as human beings, there is a lot of room for improvement."

The PNDC member admitted, however, that there are others who should know that they are not doing well as they could do and of course, should be worried about their incapability to work to their own performance level.

Mr Obeng said "but if there are people who are worried, it must be people who obviously are working more than 13 hours a day; working day and night to see that things are done and some results are achieved."

He disclosed that the PNDC is the policy body of the country and not the Committee of Secretaries.

"By definition," he said, "the Committee of Secretaries is to implement decisions made by the PNDC that relate to the government machinery."

Mr Obeng told the questioner that "so far as we talk about Secretaries we should be talking about activities of state that relate to the bureaucracy of the country; activities in the ministries and activities of some government departments:

The PNDC member observed that the Committee of Secretaries could be likened to the Cabinet that used to exist in Ghana and other nations

"except that whilst the cabinet usually has the final right and decision, the Committee of Secretaries only makes policy recommendations for consideration by the PNDC" adding that "it is sometimes on take it or leave it basis."

He disclosed that most of the time, the PNDC deliberates with the appropriate members of the committee whose sector comes under focus with the view to finding appropriate line of policy to develop for that particular sector saying "sometimes also complete memoranda completely discussed by the Committee of Secretaries are laid before the PNDC for their consideration."

Mr Obeng noted that in the final analysis, if a recommendation finds favour with the PNDC, "a go-ahead indicator is given and that policy is implemented."

He hinted that the Committee of Secretaries performs two main functions that go across sectoral lines and sometimes also meets to discuss policy questions which are proposed by a particular Secretary.

"In other words, we assist with a collective backing and the benefit of our collective knowledge and experience to the Secretary who puts such memorandum before us."

Asked as to whether the Committee of Secretaries does implement decisions, Mr Obeng said, "when a recommendation is approved by the PNDC, the Committee of Secretaries implements it if it is a policy-decision which cuts across sectors, then as a collective effort we all find ways of putting in our bit to ensure the total implementation of the package."

But, he said, if it is one of those decisions that all of us get together to consider for and on behalf of one sector, then when approval is given, we leave the sector to implement it.

He replied to another question that he was not happy with the progress of the implementation of all the decisions which the PNDC had given to the Committee of Secretaries to implement.

CSO: 3400/87

GHANA

CUSTOMS TO BE RESTRUCTURED

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 20 Sep 85 pp 1, 4/5

[Article by Stephen Kofi Akordor]

[Text]

THE PNDC has approved measures to restructure the Customs and Excise Department to improve upon its performance and enhance its capability to serve the public more efficiently.

As a first step, the department has now become autonomous detached from the main stream of the Civil Service.

Alhaji Iddrisu Mahama, a member of the PNDC, announced this when he delivered the keynote address at the opening of the eighth annual delegates conference of the Customs and Excise Staff Association (CESA) at Ho yesterday.

He said the PNDC took the decision because of the vital role the department is playing towards the achievement of the objectives of the Economic Recovery Programme.

He noted that with its new role, a great responsibility now lies on the personnel of the department. Furthermore, it poses a great challenge to all whose responsibility it

is to ensure the viability of the new outfit.

Alhaji Mahama, who is also the Chairman of the Economic Task Force, observed that as one of the major revenue collecting agencies of the nation, the performance of the department in the past fell short of expectation.

He said notwithstanding the difficulties facing the department, it is undeniable that the activities of some unpatriotic and undisciplined personnel within the department had frustrated the efforts of the committed and hardworking officers.

"By their acts of economic sabotage, they encourage smuggling and em-

bezzlement of funds which legitimately belong to the state", he stressed.

Alhaji Mahama warned that the new department has no room for such shady characters whose sole aim is to amass wealth at the expense of the state.

"The new service needs a new type of Customs officers imbued with a high degree of integrity, dedication and commitment to the cause of the revolution", he emphasised.

He expressed the hope that the conference will seriously address itself to the numerous problems facing the department and submit proposals for eliminating all the shortcomings.

Alhaji Mahama also

called on the conference to address itself to the issue of forging effective working relationship among the department and other institutions, including the Central Revenue Department, Ministry of Trade and the banking institutions.

The theme for the conference is "The Customs In A Reformation Process".

Alhaji Dauda Otoo, Controller of Customs and Excise, urged personnel of the department to justify the confidence reposed in them by increasing productivity.

He said the time had come for them to quantify their productive efforts as a justification for the ultimate and continued exi-

stence of the Customs Preventive Service envisaged in proposals submitted to government.

He called on the conference to address itself to the question of discipline and cautioned that the department would no longer tolerate the situation where the behaviour of a few would drag the good name of the rest in the mud.

Alhaji Otoo explained that while taking steps to ensure discipline within the rank and file of the staff, his administration, in conjunction with the National Executive of the CESA has instituted a national award scheme to honour outstanding personnel.

GHANA

NEW MINIMUM PRICE FOR RICE, MAIZE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 16 Sep 85 p 8

[Article by Lloyd Evans]

[Text]

THE government is to come out soon with a new minimum guaranteed price for rice and maize. This will later be followed with a new price for cotton too.

The guaranteed price, which is not to be equated with that of price control is to enable the farmer to break even with his production cost and allow him to make a nominal profit margin.

The Under-Secretary for Agriculture in-charge of Crops, Mr Ibrahim Adam, disclosed this at an open field day held at Kpong Farms at Akuse last Saturday.

The aim of the open day was to demonstrate various mechanisation practices on the farm, such as harvesting, exhibit the necessary infrastructure required for integrated farming operations and present its innovative methods.

Mr Adam stated that because of the problems in agriculture, there is the need to give farmers a mi-

nimum guaranteed price for their produce so as to boost their production capacity and pointed out that each Ghanaian is looking forward to the day when farmers will have ready markets for their produce.

The Under-Secretary said it is the aim of the government to de-emphasise government monopoly on all irrigation projects and that all investors who wish to participate in irrigation projects are most welcome, adding, "irrigation has a big role to play in agricultural production."

He called on the management of Kpong Farms to whip up the enthusiasm of local farmers around to take much interest in rice cultivation.

The Manager of the Farms, Mr A. Lakis Papastavrou, who had earlier on taken his guests round the 80 hectare rice farm, said among the numerous problems confronting the farm are the control of birds, marketing of the rice and acquisition of spare parts.

GHANA

RICE FARMERS TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 19 Sep 85 p 8

[Text] The government will give every assistance to rice farmers to increase production, Dr I.K. Adjei-Mafo, Secretary for Agriculture, stressed in Accra yesterday.

He noted with regret that as of now, the country produces only 30 percent of the total rice requirement forcing the government to import about 86,000 tonnes to supplement local production.

Dr Adjei-Mafo was speaking to a 10-member commission from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA), the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) which called on him at his office.

He said the government was doing all it could to increase rice production under its Economic Recovery Programme.

"Rice is one of the most important staples in the country and is even preferred to maize by the majority and the government has seen the need to intensify its efforts to increase production in order to save foreign exchange used for its importation," Dr Adjei-Mafo stressed.

Dr Adjei-Mafo said 40 percent of the government's expenditure on agriculture is spent on irrigation to encourage rice production and to shift the over-reliance on the cultivation of the unpredictable "rain-fed" rice.

He criticised the recent World Bank report which classified rice farming in the country as not being viable because of the cost involved in irrigation.

Dr Adjei-Mafo explained that if this were so, there would not have been a 65 percent shift from maize to rice farming.

He announced that the government has provided more funds for research into rice cultivation at the Nyankpala Agriculture Station adding that the government would soon come out with an agriculture research programme.

Dr Adjei-Maafa pledged the government's support for the plans of the mission to help increase rice production in the country.

The leader of the mission, Mr J.C. Flinn of IRRI, said the scientific mission is in the country in line with IRRI's effort to accelerate its role in rice research and development in Africa.

The mission will during its 10-day tour of the country, explore the country's potentiality in rice cultivation and irrigation.

Mr Flinn said a comprehensive report would be presented to the organisation's headquarters in Manila, Philippines, after the tour.

Dr Letitia E. Obeng, a trustee of IRRI, advised that the Institute of Aquatic Biology involved in all rice irrigation projects since bilharzia is still common in the country.

CSO: 3400/87

GHANA

HAVE WATER PROJECT COMMISSIONED

Accra GHANAIAAN TIMES in English 16 Sep 85 p 8

[Text] Mr Frederick Livingstone, the Canadian High Commissioner in Accra, at the weekend commissioned a C715.2 million (17 million Canadian dollars) water project at Have in the Volta Region.

The amount was provided by the Canadian Government while the people of Have contributed C500,000 and offered communal labour.

In an address, the High Commissioner observed that Ghana's economy had improved considerably since the advent of the December 31 Revolution.

Mr Livingstone who leaves the country in two weeks at the end of a three-year duty tour, recalled the sufferings Ghanaians went through in 1983 and noted that "the economy has improved for both the country and individuals."

He commended the people of Have for rehabilitating the water project and said it was a sign of the spirit of self-help.

The High Commissioner said that Canada will continue to assist Ghana to develop, thus strengthening the relations between them.--GNA

CSO: 3400/89

GHANA

DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR MOSCOW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY MEETING

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 18 Sep 85 p 9

[Article by Faustina Ashirifie]

[Text]

A TWO-MAN delegation led by Mr F. A. Jantuah, Secretary for Local Government, yesterday left for Moscow, USSR, to participate in the 50th anniversary meeting of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

The meeting, which will be attended by foreign delegates of Soviet Friendship Societies, would be held on September 26, 1985 under the theme, "Movement For Peace and Friendship Amongst Peoples Against the Danger of Nuclear War and Militarisation of Outer Space".

Mr Jantuah, who was the first president of the Ghana-USSR Friendship Society, is to deliver a speech at the meeting.

The leader of the delegation told newsmen before departure that in Africa, Ghana, since independence, has been in the forefront in the fight against nuclear armament and general militarisation of outer space in view of the dangers they pose to mankind.

He, therefore, described Ghana's participation in the celebration as being in line with the consistent policy of the country and hoped that it would enhance the already cordial relations between the two countries.

The other member of the delegation is Mr C. K. Ayivor, a member of the Ghana-USSR Friendship Society. They will be away for two weeks.

The delegation was seen off by Mr V. M. Semenov, USSR Ambassador in Ghana.

CSO: 3400/91

GHANA

QUAINOO ADDRESSES 'OPERATION CUTLASS' PARTICIPANTS

Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 18 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Robert Bentil and Veronica Sagoe]

[Text] The Force Commander, Major-General Arnold Quainoo yesterday asked members of the Armed Forces not to let the peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the country deceive them into relaxation.

The peaceful atmosphere, he stressed, should never be taken for granted, saying that peace could not be maintained with diplomacy alone.

Addressing troops after he launched phase two of the military exercise, code-named 'Operation Cutlass' in Kumasi, the Force Commander asked soldiers to be vigilant at all times, stressing that "a weak Armed Forces invites aggression and attacks of the enemy."

Calling for a soldier's loyalty, dedication and, above all, commitment to the nation, he said "it should be our duty now to leave the Armed Forces better than we met it."

Major-General Quainoo also touched on the efficiency of the Armed Forces and hinted that the material and professional requirements of troops were being looked into to ensure all-round efficiency.

On the operation itself, he said the exercise was to test their combat-readiness and also to toughen them to meet the enemy anywhere.

"We have to react to dissident infiltration. We cannot do this without testing your capabilities," the Force Commander told the participants and commended them on their landings.

CSO: 3400/90

GHANA

'OPERATION CUTLASS' A MILITARY READINESS SUCCESS

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 18 Sep 85 p 8

[Article by Joe Bradford Nyinah]

[Text]

AN impressive demonstration of the combat readiness of the country's Armed Forces to defend her from aggressors was staged at the Kumasi Aerodrome yesterday by a section of the forces from the northern Command.

The one-hundred-and-fifty-strong contingent who undertook the second phase of "Operation Cutlass", a military exercise began a fortnight ago to test the ability of the nation's forces to discover and destroy dissident positions, was drawn from the Fourth Garrison in Kumasi and the Airborne Force in Tamale.

The infantry men from the Fourth Garrison engaged in camouflage and concealment exercise while the paratroopers demonstrated how to land behind enemy lines and recapture occupied positions.

The Force Commander, Major-General Arnold Quainoo and other state officials who were present were impressed by the promptness with which the Airborne men arrived in Kumasi.

Before their arrival the Fourth Garrison men, camouflaged with various

kinds of foliage to conceal them among their green surroundings, had taken positions in the bush near the Aerodrome.

The Airborne men were expected to land at 1 p.m. But at three minutes to the time the drone of the Air Force G552 aircraft rent the air.

Another Air Force craft had taken the Force Commander into the air armed with binoculars to monitor the exercise closely.

At exactly 1.05 p.m. two men were seen floating in the air amidst cheers of a crowd that had been attracted to the scene by the camouflaged Garrison men.

In all 31 men were dropped from the aircraft but what fascinated the crowd most was when one airborne man landed on a mango tree near the Aerodrome.

The skill and expertise with which the airman paddled himself to safety clearly depicted that there were really men behind the December 31 process.

So when after the exercise the Airborne men broke into a "Countrymen don't worry we shall overcome" chorus, the crowd apparently did not take them for jokes.

GHANA

LABADI SEA DEFENCE WORKS PHASE 2 NEARING COMPLETION

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 18 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Adbul Aziz]

[Text]

THE second phase of the Labadi Sea Defence Works being undertaken by Messrs Marine Construction Company Ltd. will be completed by the end of November this year at a cost of C126 million.

The Managing Director of the Company, Mr Langford Kofi Amoako announced this in an interview when delegates to the four-day International Government Consultative Conference on coastal erosion along the Bight of Benin toured the project site in Accra on Monday.

Mr Amoako mentioned lack of equipment, such as dump trucks, quarry machines, and cranes as the main problem facing his company in the execution of the project.

He suggested to the government that in awarding future contracts, at least 20 per cent of the contract sum in foreign exchange be given to local contractors to be used to buy equipment for their projects.

Mr Amoako was of the view that if local contractors are given the same treatment as foreign firms which take some percentage of their contract sums in foreign exchange for procuring equipment, they will execute their projects not only on schedule but also more efficiently.

Some of the delegates said they were impressed by the job done by Messrs Marine Construction Company Ltd. and expressed the desire to learn from Ghana as to how they can solve their coastal erosion problems.

On the third phase of the project, Mr George Opoku, Chief Consultant of the Architectural and Engineering Services Corporation (AESC) said the date on which work will start has not yet been decided.

The tour of the delegation took them along the Accra-Tema coastline where they visited the Korle Lagoon, Labadi Beach, Tema Harbour and Tema Fishing Harbour.

JPRS-SSA-85-104
28 October 1985

GHANA

BRIEFS

EXERCISE 'HOT FOOT'--As part of this year's Armed Forces end-of-year sporting activities, there will be a two-day jungle-endurance exercise code-named "Exercise Hot Foot" at Achiase in the Eastern Region. The exercise begins tomorrow and ends on Friday. [Text] [Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 18 Sep 85 p 9]

CSO: 3400/90

MADAGASCAR

10 YEARS OF NATION'S SOCIALISM ASSESSED

Paris AFRIQUE NOUVELLE in French 7-13 Aug, 14-20 Aug

[Part I: 7-13 Aug 85 pp 6-8]

[Article by Felix Rabemora, as published in ETUDES, Vol 362 No 5, (3625)
May 1985: "Madagascar: 10 Years of Socialism"]

[Text] A deep silence has fallen over Madagascar which used to be called "the happy island." The world is hardly ever reminded of the existence of this distant island in the southwest Indian Ocean by the occasional news of riots (the all too famous "rotaka") or massacres (like that of last December, during which over 50 were killed in the heart of the capital). Madagascar has lost the fame and esteem it used to enjoy in international and especially French public opinion, and which were the envy of many African states.

Ten years ago, after convulsions disconcerting to the foreign observer, this country engaged in a socialist experiment that was received with enthusiasm at home and followed with interest from abroad. Since then, fastidious censorship has progressively stifled all information on the "great island." In Europe, the hungerstrike of a few Moroccan prisoners is in the headlines; but the massacre of some 30 students or 70 peasants in recent years in Madagascar was hardly mentioned. It is true that the Malagasy regime claims to be "progressist."

What, then, has been going on over there since 1975, and how did it come to the present situation which all agree is a disaster? The course followed, as well as its outcome, deserve a short review: in many respects, that course is typical of the misadventures suffered by many African states.

Contrary to most former French colonies, Madagascar had not only a homogeneous and deeply rooted culture, but also a national history. Already in the late 18th century, the largest ethnic group, the Merina, had given itself a monarchy whose avowed purpose was the political unification of the island. Taking skilfully advantage of British and French ambitions, the sovereigns extended their influence over most of the territory during the 19th century. But French occupation and the annexation law of 1896 prevented

the completion of this process. Nevertheless, already at that time, the conquered land possessed the main attributes of a modern nation; a centralized power, an administration, an army, a language and a culture.

Under these conditions, it is no wonder that colonization met with an increasingly strong and well-organized resistance. It peaked in the armed uprising of 1947, which was crushed by force (and internal quarrels) and probably killed several thousand people, among civilians and among the military, although no figure could ever be established. The independence obtained in 1960 answered the expectations of Malagasy nationalists only partially; at any rate, the transition government of Philibert Tsiranana lasted too long. Politically sovereign, the country remained economically dependent on its former mother country, militarily and ideologically tied to the western bloc and, in particular, culturally enslaved.

The May 1972 "revolution," originating in the academic world and soon taken over by the vast majority of the population, revealed this profound dissatisfaction. The slogan then was "Malagasification." The easy-going but weakened government of President Tsiranana resigned immediately after the first acts of violence. At that moment, everything seemed possible. But the people's enthusiasm lacked both a consistent political platform and leaders to direct it. Left to its own devices, the "revolution" was taken over by the army... Very soon, the old demons of division (among tribes, castes, classes, etc.) and inefficiency regained the upper hand. Driven into powerlessness, the head of the government, General Ramantsoa, resigned at the beginning of 1975. He was succeeded by his popular minister of the interior, Colonel Ratsimandrava--to the great displeasure of the former minister of foreign affairs, Corvette Capt Didier Ratsiraka, representing a harder ideological line. Six days after coming into office, Richard Ratsimandrava was murdered under conditions that were never clarified. And the military directorate that succeeded him brought Didier Ratsiraka to power, and he took office on 15 June 1975.

Malagasy Socialism

A new era had thus begun. President Ratsiraka's decision to choose socialism was defined in August 1975 in a Charter of the Malagasy Socialist Revolution (also called "Boky mena," the Red Book) and ratified the following December, when a new constitution was also adopted and when Didier Ratsiraka was elected chief of state with a seven-year mandate. Presented as specifically Malagasy, this socialism is inspired by familiar principles: it is resolutely anticolonialist and antineocolonialist, and it advocates a dual revolution of structures and mentalities aimed at establishing a new society that would be both egalitarian and inspired by the Malagasy tradition.

More prosaically, this socialism wants to be the full and exclusive expression of Malagasy nationalism, which justifies excluding from public life all those that do not share its objectives: denounced as a reactionary and in the pay of foreign powers, the opposition (whether real or potential) can have no legal existence. This is why the National Front for the Defense of the Revolution consists exclusively of political parties that claim allegiance to the Charter. Very soon, however, the new party created by the president,

the AREMA (Vanguard of the Malagasy Revolution), became the dominant party within the Front, as it had full control over the administration; the other parties, whose number varies (from 5 to 7) and whose influence is very unequal because it is restricted to the activities of the members, are being progressively reduced to the status of auxiliary forces. And, increasingly, the president is announcing his determination to set up a single-party regime.

Economically, a wave of spectacular nationalizations started already in June 1975 and continued for the next two years: the film industry, banks and insurance companies, the energy sector, all industries, large trading and import-export firms, the collection and distribution of staples (rice, oil, soap, etc.). All this was brought under State control, following in that the well-known reasoning that, since the State is the expression of the people, returning economic control to the sovereign people must of necessity involve putting it under direct State control.

Ten Years Later, Economic Collapse...

Raw materials prices were relatively favorable during the years 1975 to 1978, so that the new government did not become aware of problems until 1980. The trade balance--which had a chronic deficit of about 10-15 billion Malagasy francs (fmg) each year--has shown an annual deficit of 80-100 billion francs since 1979. Inflation, which had been traditionally low except for brief periods (10.9 percent per year from 1971 to 1974, for instance) has now reached 30-50 percent per year since 1981. And the public foreign debt has assumed dramatic proportions: it now exceeds \$1.5 billion for a gross national product estimated at about \$3 billion in 1984 (that year, the dollar averaged a little over 600 fmg).

The main reason for this collapse has to do with the drop in agricultural production which itself is the result of a price policy that systematically penalizes farmers, and structural measures that generate irresponsibility and corruption. In the case of food crops, especially rice, the most basic food in Madagascar, the monopoly on collection and commercialization that was given to State companies paralyzed the market. Private traders, mainly Chinese and Indian, had exchanged the farmers' rice for consumer goods--making, that is true, substantial profits--and the new State-owned companies proved unable to replace them. Either through carelessness, or because of a lack of means of transportation or available funds, and due to the continued deterioration of the road network which is no longer maintained, increasing quantities of rice were abandoned in rural areas, while the larger towns were supplied with (poor quality) imported rice. Then, starting in 1980, prices too got out of hand. Traditionally, the price of one kilo of rice was the equivalent of one hour of work at the minimum wage. But in 1984, when the minimum hourly wage was set at 107 fmg, rice would cost from 200 fmg (for imported and rationed rice) to 300 fmg on the free market--rising to 500 fmg and over on the grey market during the 4 to 5 months preceding the harvest of the new crop. Similar observations could be made for wheat, corn, peanuts, cotton and tobacco.

As for exports of farm products, the State apparatus set up to collect these products was so unwieldy that it had the same results, which were further compounded by the nationalization of the coffee concessions that had belonged to

European colonists. From then on, Madagascar was unable to honor the coffee quotas allocated to it. Since its cloves find increasingly fewer outlets in Indonesia, which now grows its own, and since the demand for vanilla is relatively small, the country's main exports of foreign products have thus declined appreciably. Last but not least, producer prices were systematically kept very low, representing hardly one fourth of export prices, which resulted in large clandestine exports whose main instigators were never taken to task by the authorities, in spite of the much-publicized "vanilla trial" of 1984.

Similar problems plagued industrial policy. The only general census of the country's population that was ever made, early in 1975, and whose results have not all been published yet, indicates that there were about 70,000 factory workers (for a population totalling 6.5 million at the time). This is evidence of the low rate of industrialization, which was timidly started in the late 1960's and resumed in a disorderly manner in the late 1970's. The investments made by the socialist regime were nearly all marked by inconsistency and impracticality, reflecting the conditions under which they must have been negotiated: poorly designed projects, such as the Andekaleka hydroelectric dam which is still waiting for a plant (for instance a chromite-refining plant) that would consume its power and make the project profitable; poor site selection, as in the case of the two tanneries at Antsiranana (formerly Diego-Suarez) and Ambositra, or the fertilizer factory in the South; overly sophisticated investments, such as the soybean processing plants designed to produce oil in Antsirabe or milk near Ambatolampy; useless projects, such as the third textile unit built at Toliara or the Morondava sugar refinery, etc.

Meanwhile, older industries are working at only one third of their capacities because they lack local or imported raw materials: this is the case of the Antananarivo paper-mill and soap factory, the Antsirabe and Mahajanga textile plants, and oil-mills and sugar factories throughout the country, with the notable exception of breweries, however, which are the only sector in continued expansion. And if minimal production is still possible, it is essentially because of the aid of France and, to a lesser extent, of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the European Economic Community.

... And Social Regression

The economic collapse then resulted in a rapid and massive impoverishment of the population, which was estimated at 10 million in 1985 (for a territory of 592,000 km²). In rural areas, where 80 percent of the Malagasy people live, self-subsistence has become the rule again, malnutrition is widespread, and famine is threatening whenever the rainfall is inadequate. But rice alone is no longer enough, especially in areas where the rapid increase of the population (+ 3 percent per year) is not compensated by simultaneous yield increases. And how could these be achieved when fertilizers have disappeared from the market, when agronomic research (in particular for seed improvement) is disorganized and inefficient, when ploughshares are not to be found (but the State bought 1,200 Soviet tractors, most of which were out of service within a year), when selling prices are ridiculously low, and when products as basic as oil, sugar, salt, candles, batteries, fabrics and school notebooks are in scarce supply? This pauperization then

causes a continuous exodus to the towns, a phenomenon that is further compounded, as we shall see, by a poorly conceived school policy.

In the towns, on the other hand, the most visible signs of the deterioration of the standard of living are first of all the waiting lines in front of the "city halls" ("fokontany" offices), as the State also took it upon itself to distribute the PPN (staple products): these lines begin forming sometimes as early as 2 am and last until noon; and city dwellers consider themselves fortunate when they get a minimal amount of broken rice, which is severely rationed during half of the year, and is usually contaminated with insecticides, a frequent cause of serious intestinal trouble. Other characteristics: the deterioration of clothing, which is no longer renewed for lack of money; overcrowded housing, the proliferation of shantytowns and, recently, homeless people: we should point out that the population of Antananarivo, the capital and the worst case in point, has doubled in 15 years, probably to 800,000, in spite of which no low-cost housing was built during that period; and, finally, widespread unemployment as, in order to survive, most of the urban population is compelled to engage in small-scale trading (selling some fruit, rice cakes, sweets, etc.), thereby also increasing the number of middlemen and, therefore, the price of products...

But the greatest cause for concern is certainly the employment problem, in particular for the 250,000 or so young people who reach adulthood every year. There is an oversupply of manpower as the industry is operating below capacity, and the trade sector is oversaturated; that left the administration but, under the pressure of the International Monetary Fund and because it lacks credits and equipment, it is laying off by the thousands the temporary help it had hired a few years ago. Apart from the army, which is still "hiring" from time to time, the only remaining prospect is private schools: public schools can no longer meet the demand and, under the pressure of parents who believe that they are thus ensuring the future of their children, there is a multiplication of makeshift schools set up by greedy owners who hire many unqualified teachers.

In other words, regression is strongly affecting the academic world. Following the Malagasification that was certainly legitimate but carried out with more demagoguery than consistency, the use of an international language of communication (in that case French) has been just about lost (except for the children of a privileged minority). This would not be so bad if there existed means of training and intellectual awakening in the Malagasy language; but nothing worth mentioning was done in this respect, both because of the narrow-minded censorship that encourages conformity and discourages all research, and because of the intense ideological orientation that was given to all school curricula. Nothing counts but the Marxist-Leninist thought, or more precisely a by-product of historical materialism revised and corrected according to the Soviet model. The degree of ignorance and corruption of the mind prevailing in the schools, and affecting also high-school graduates and university students, is downright staggering and weighs heavy on the country's future.

Under these conditions, it is no wonder that, in the province with the highest rate of school attendance, the Antananarivo province, only one elementary

student out of 1,000 will graduate from high school. In addition, the university is practically closed to all those who do not master the French or even the Malagasy language; lectures are given in French.

Part II: 14-20 Aug 85 pp 6-7

[Text] In our last issue, we published the first part of an evaluation of the first 10 years of Malagasy socialism. Since then, serious social unrest (see article page 9) has brought to light the problems which the Antananarivo authorities must tackle in dealing with the discontented among populations faced with shortages of all kinds and sometimes even vexations. Not to mention daily intimidation and harassment.

As for all those who drop out already from elementary school, no professional training worthy of the name is available to them. Except, however, for private parochial schools (essentially catholic) which modestly go on dispensing technical and agricultural education. This private school system has managed, not without difficulty, to survive the intrigues of those who want to abolish it. It recruits about one fourth of the country's school population, especially in primary schools and in the first secondary cycle. But its level is very uneven: whereas catholic schools, which form a majority, count among the best schools of Madagascar, a disorderly proliferation of private schools has recently been taking place, especially in towns, and these schools take advantage of the inadequacies of public schools to make money at the expense of gullible parents.

There would be quite as much to say about public health services, to which the state devotes 6 percent of its budget (compared with 31 percent of national education and 33 percent for the armed forces). Medicines, even the most common or the most needed, such as Nivaquine and antibiotics, are cruelly lacking. Physicians have come to the point where they write prescription knowing full well that their patients will not find most of the prescribed medicines. And the shortage affects hospitals to the same degree, as they consistently lack not only medicines, but also methylated spirits, plaster and bandages. According to non-official sources, infant mortality would average from 200 to 400 per thousand, a rate unheard of in living memory.

Finally, there is no need to dwell on information. For the past 10 years, no one has known the date of meetings of the Supreme Revolutionary Council or of the Cabinet; how could anyone still dream of seeing the minutes of these meetings published? Censorship carried its zeal so far as to prohibit the press from publishing an excerpt from the Official Gazette. In all fairness, we should say that the excerpt in question was a new salary scale for the gendarmes! As a rule, foreign newspapers and magazines are admitted only in small numbers, or not at all, except for Soviet publications.

The Malagasy press, which is over 100 years old and had a tradition of pluralism and independence, has been decimated. The only newspapers left are forced to publish the official version of domestic and international

events, and the less timorous among them are regularly compelled to alter certain paragraphs or remove certain sentences or allusions. Paradoxically, it is through Radio-France Internationale that many Malagasy get occasional bits of information on their own country, which are always toned down. But this is not much of a risk to the government. Indeed, very few have electricity and a radio set sophisticated enough to receive foreign broadcasts; for most, radio became superfluous a long time ago: batteries for transistor radios are seldom to be found, especially in rural areas.

A "Model" Rejected by a Demobilized People

Ten years after it was established, socialism, which was supposed to be specifically Malagasy, is now only a vague copy of an imported model from which it progressively copied its structures, its activity and its language. The only thing that now matters to the current regime is to stay in power--even through force and even in spite of the people it claims to represent. Two significant examples testify to this trend, which will be hard to reverse without major and unforeseeable upheavals.

At home, first, we witnessed the constitution of a new ruling class, comparable in every respect to the "nomenklatura" of the Soviet Union and its satellites: it consists, on the one hand, of political leaders supporting the regime (or at least using the same language) and for whom the recruiting criteria is ideological conformity rather than competence or integrity; and, on the other hand, military leaders in charge of corps (army and police) who are divided among themselves but courted by the government. The link uniting them is the defense of increasingly exorbitant privileges against the large mass of the impoverished and, to an extent that is hard to assess but certainly considerable, the fact that they are compromised in corruption. To these should be added, for obvious reasons of opportunism, most of the traditional bourgeoisie which essentially lives in Antananarivo. According to the 1975 census, this ruling class would occupy approximately 25,000 posts and would include one third of women--a notable proportion characteristic of Madagascar. That is a total of 15,000 to 17,000 families. We need not dwell on what differentiates this class; the picture is familiar throughout Africa: villas and cars, numerous servants, European lifestyle and consumption of imported products (from clothing to videotape recorders), "service" trips abroad with large allocations of foreign currencies, studies in France for the children, etc.

In foreign policy, too, the "model" is a proven one. From the East bloc, the paradise of brother countries (the preferred example of which in Madagascar is North Korea), come ideology and weapons--the latter payable in foreign currencies or through barter, so that the Soviet Union could recently export vanilla to the United States. Military agreements, like arms sales contracts, remain secret. But it would be inaccurate to conclude that Madagascar is occupied by the Soviets: their physical presence, as civilian or military advisors or technical assistants, is probably less, by numbers, than that of the French. It would be more accurate to say that Madagascar is being Sovietized by the Malagasy leaders themselves; it did not take them long to understand the advantage of this system in perpetuating their regime, and they perfectly assimilated its operating rules. In any case, the Soviet Union

would be financially and technically incapable of taking responsibility for the country's development, even if it wanted to.

This role, therefore, falls quite naturally to the West, in particular to France. Together with the EEC and, since 1980, with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, France has been the major supplier of funds; without its help, the Malagasy regime would have collapsed a long time ago. A paradoxical situation if there ever was one, but one that is not unheard of in Africa. Many old reflexes of French policy could account for it: obsession with the French-speaking community, protection of short-term interests, orientation to the Third World, ignorance of what is going on in the country, and unconscious conservatism acting in favor of any established regime, no matter what it is and what it does.

In view of this evolution, many people outside Madagascar wonder at the passivity of a people which does massively reject the system imposed upon it, and still far more at the lack of apparent reactions from the numerous, educated and competent intelligentsia. It is common knowledge that no one believes in it any more, except probably for a few tens of people among the highest officials. All are aware of the failure of the socialist experiment but will acknowledge it only when safe from curious ears (in particular those of foreign reporters--out of prudence but mostly out of pride). Since no opposition can express itself, rejection then takes the form of sporadic explosions of violence (the "rotaka") that are soon crushed, or of permanent insecurity (in rural areas, through the "dahalo," armed bands of cattle rustlers who recently started to rob villagers when zebus became scarce; in towns, through thieves, delinquents or unemployed people acting alone or in organized groups). This rejection also takes the form of widespread demobilization accompanied by corruption.

Permanent Disinformation

In addition to recourse to brutal force and permanent disinformation in the name of an infantilizing ideology, the government's retort involves essentially intimidation. Very few people have not feared, at one time or another, that what they said might be reported by unknown agents of the DGID (General Directorate of Information and Documentation, the government's "intelligence service"). Even if it is only the result of disinformation carefully distilled into public opinion, fear is omnipresent: many people have been summoned for questioning to Ambohibao, not far from Ivato, the Antananarivo international airport. And we fail to see who or what organization could stand up to the DGID whose methods hardly bear mentioning--cases of torture have been reported. More particularly, either to eliminate a potential opponent or to strike public opinion, plots have been ritually denounced by the president, mostly plots against him; the alleged authors of these plots, often mere fabrications, undergo highly publicized trials months or years later.

These methods obviously cannot fail to intimidate a people that is impressionable by nature (and 50-percent illiterate), thus bringing to political life an apparent calm that does not in any way reflect the profound feelings of a population deprived of all initiative, of all means of control or

pressure. With the exception, however, of one sector: Christian churches, which represent half of the Malagasy. With smoothly run organizations that cover the whole territory, these churches have denounced on several occasions the evils that plague the country and the people. In addition, they have come closer to one another since 1980, in the FFKM (Federation of Christian churches of Madagascar), whose influence can no longer leave the government indifferent. They seem determined to use it: in spite of measures of intimidation, the voice of the Malagasy bishops was just heard on two occasions since the beginning of the year, to denounce with surprising firmness the evils that affect the country.

Is the situation deadlocked for good? Everything indicates that it is, although unforeseeable events cannot be ruled out either. In any case, Malagasy socialism as it has been practiced for the past 10 years does not seem capable of regenerating itself. To do so, and to regain its credibility, it would at least have to agree to a measure of pluralism of opinions, in particular as far as information is concerned, and to a minimum of autonomy in the management of the economy. All things that are unthinkable, as they would endanger its very existence. That leaves one unknown: popular (or military?) reactions to practices that so obviously violate the national conscience and the culture of a people strongly attached to its traditions. And, in particular, the Malagasy like the Africans know how to take their time: peoples always survive their leaders.

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CSO: 3417/557

MALI

RELIEF ORGANIZATION FOR DROUGHT VICTIMS ESTABLISHED

Bamako L'ESSOR in French 4 Sep 85 p 9

[Text] On 22 August 1984 the secretary general of the party, president of the republic, and General of the Army Moussa Traore issued an appeal for national solidarity for the benefit of our compatriots who are victims of the drought. The members of the Democratic Union of Malian People (UDPM), responding to this appeal and with the desire to support the efforts of the party and government to end forever the harmful effects of drought, have established an association called the "Malian Association of Volunteers to Help the People Victims of Drought" with acronym AMAPS.

The goals of this association are the following:

- To promote and carry out initiatives to improve the living conditions of the afflicted people,

- To undertake awareness and information campaigns in the afflicted areas and send groups of volunteers composed of health, livestock, agriculture and education specialists,

- To educate national and international opinion about the drought situation that Mali is undergoing, and its disastrous consequences for the country's economy,

- To provide all necessary support to the afflicted population to change the attitudes of the nomadic peoples in the direction of conversion to other economic activities such as agriculture or crafts,

- To encourage settling of the nomadic people and establishment of cooperatives of farmers, craftsmen, stock-raisers, etc.

The honorary president of the AMAPS, whose headquarters is in Bamako, is Nok Ag Atia, third vice chairman of the National Assembly, and its president is Mohamed Ben Baba Ahmed.

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CSO: 3419/602

MAURITIUS

RAMESH JEEWOOLALL DISCUSSES LABOR PARTY'S DIRECTION

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 6 Aug 85 p 8

[Interview with Sir Ramesh Jeewoolall, deputy leader, former speaker of the Legislative Assembly; by Vishwa Mootoocurpen; date and place not given]

[Text] Where is the Labor Party (PT) headed? Sir Ramesh Jeewoolall, deputy leader and former speaker of the Legislative Assembly, calmly answers the questions of Vishwa Mootoocurpen, LE MAURICIEN reporter.

"The Labor Party is a party of the center and hopes that the next prime minister, if there is an alliance with the MMM, will be a Laborite," he told us. And why would an alliance be possible with the MMM? "Because the MMM is no longer on the far left, but has come closer to the PT and is now a party of the center left."

Can the Labor Party conclude an alliance with the government now in power? Jeewoolall believes that the regime headed by Jugnauth is "squarely on the right" and that Jugnauth is following a policy set forth by the PMSD [Mauritian Social Democratic Party], but he adds: "Up until now."

On the subject of previous PT/PMSD coalitions, Jeewoolall emphasizes that it is the Labor Party, the majority party, that always had control and that the PMSD was kicked out of the government when the PT deemed it fitting.

What now separates the PT today from the current government? Jeewoolall replies: "The government is now undoing the accomplishments of the PT, liberalizing prices set by the former Laborite regime and the wages of men in the free zone, when those same wages had also been set by the PT. There is also South Africa and the ideological divergencies between the PT of today and Jugnauth's government. That PT," Jeewoolall said, "still claims to follow socialism confronted with a government controlled by the PMSD."

Jeewoolall also believes that the Labor Party is a real national party and that the prime minister of Mauritius should not necessarily be a member of the majority community. Speaking as the former speaker of the Legislative Assembly, he stresses that the speaker must be absolutely independent and that he must scrupulously ensure that the parliamentary minority can make its rights be heard. Jeewoolall also emphasizes the importance of maintaining the principle of the separation of powers, the basis of democracy, and says that when he was speaker, it did not observe that there were abuses of parliamentary questions.

[Question] The impression that emerges from the makeup of your new leadership is that of a party that cannot or does not want to change. One sees the same faces. Where are the new recruits of whom you so frequently speak?

[Answer] Allow me to state, first of all, that there are new elements within the new executive leadership. Those reelected are for the most part delegates from the different districts. They form what we can call the rank and file of the Labor Party and it is they who, in exceptionally difficult times for the party, helped it maintain its presence in the field, which in fact enabled the party, after a real period in the desert, to gain an extraordinary second wind. One can reasonably say today that the Labor Party is as strong as the strongest party. Having said that much, I can understand why the people expected new recruits. We will indeed have surprises at the proper time and in the proper place. I will say no more for the time being. Regarding the current executive leadership, perhaps it would be fitting to emphasize that we are taking great care to see that it be sufficiently representative. We are taking the presence of all opinions into account and ensuring that there is representation of all regions and an ethnic balance, based on the very fact that the Labor Party is a national party.

[Question] When you speak of the need to maintain an ethnic balance, does that mean that in all your actions, you will take the ethnic factor into account?

[Answer] That is a Mauritian reality and all parties take that into account, although not all say so. They actually do it.

[Question] To be prime minister, does one have to be from the community that has the largest number of voters?

[Answer] No, not necessarily. A citizen not from the majority community may very well aspire to occupy the post, but he must at least be able to assure the majority community of a feeling of security.

[Question] At the last congress, the leader of the Labor Party stated that the new executive leadership should decide, once and for all, the matter of the election alliance. You were directly involved in certain negotiations. Personally speaking, do you favor an alliance with the MMM or with the coalition in power?

[Answer] We shall decide on the alliance when the time comes and based, not on personal feelings, but on the interest of the party and mainly the country.

[Question] Is it true that the Labor Party said it is willing to accept a number of tickets substantially under 50 percent, but that it demands the post of prime minister?

[Answer] We have not yet really negotiated, but on that subject, I would say that it is reasonable and desirable for the prime minister's post to go to a Laborite. Otherwise, I would think that there would be problems in the alliance, not only at the party level, but within the voters themselves.

[Question] Do you truly believe that a prime minister from a minority group can function effectively within an alliance?

[Answer] I believe so, unless there are serious conflicts from the very outset. That is why we must be careful. If there is a possibility of a major conflict in the future, I believe that it is not at all desirable to have an alliance. It goes without saying that in an alliance, one can expect that there will occasionally be disagreements and debate; that is normal. But if one has to expect major conflicts due to ideological differences, then I believe it would be better not to have an alliance.

[Question] But why do you insist on the fact that the prime minister's post must go to a Laborite?

[Answer] What is important is to take what the voters want into account. We need a prime minister providing security, with the right experience and the ability to head a country.

[Question] In your opinion, does the current leader of the Labor Party meet those conditions?

[Answer] Yes, Sir Satcam Boolell meets all those conditions.

[Question] Do you seriously believe that a majority partner in an alliance would be willing to yield the most important post to a "junior partner"?

[Answer] It is not I who used the debatable label of "junior partner." One has but to say that no party can expect to win power in the coming general elections without the Labor Party.

[Question] Will all that not be interpreted as pretentiousness on the part of the PT? What proves that the Labor Party is as strong as you believe?

[Answer] Listen: in 1982, when the Labor Party was at the lowest point in its popularity, it obtained a little under 30 percent of the votes. You recall: that was the 60-0.

[Question] Yes, but the Labor Party was then led by Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and other prominent figures who have left and who are now in the RTM [expansion unknown].

[Answer] The people of the RTM represent nothing. As we have seen, it was a stillborn party. The Labor Party has a history, a tradition of fight behind it. It is not the party of an individual; it is a symbol which alone can rally the majority of the population because it is safe and the people know the party. Wherever we go, we hear them say: "Labor Party, *ti pli bon*."

[Question] Does the Labor Party maintain that an election alliance in the 1988 general elections must necessarily be preceded by an alliance in the December municipal elections?

[Answer] Yes, for us, that is important. The municipal election campaign goes beyond the regional framework and we do not see how we could fight a party with which we would later conclude an alliance.

[Question] At the present time, are there more differences separating the Labor Party from the government than the Labor Party from the MMM?

[Answer] Look at what the present government has done. We introduced price control, which was lifted. We imposed a minimum wage for men in the free zone, which they eliminated. We did everything to prevent the closure of factories; they do the contrary. Look at their relations with South Africa. These are only a few examples which are in fact widening the gap between the Labor Party and the government. That is why we said that this government is following a rightist policy, the policy of the PMSD. No one should feel offended; it is a fact.

[Question] You speak of the PMSD as if the Labor Party had never associated with that party.

[Answer] When the Labor Party needed the PMSD, it brought it into the government and when it felt it no longer needed it, it got rid of it. The difference is that it was the Labor Party that actually controlled the government apparatus. It was the ideology of the Labor Party that prevailed. Today, it is totally the opposite.

[Question] For you then, during the Laborite reign, the contribution of the PMSD and of Duval was not important?

[Answer] I did not say that. During the Laborite term, it was the leaders of this party who made all the decisions, in keeping with party ideology. It was a policy that fit in with the socialism preached by the party.

[Question] You often speak of this government as being repressive. The IRA [Industrial Relations Act] and the POA [Public Order Act] that were introduced by the Laborite government are not then repressive?

[Answer] You have to see the context in which those laws were passed and the situation that prevailed at the time. You also have to consider what parties were associated with the government at the time.

[Question] When you speak of a particular situation, you undoubtedly imagine a situation created by the MMM? Are the MMM at that time and the MMM today not then the same thing?

[Answer] Definitely not. The MMM no longer preaches that ideology of the far left. The MMM has made a major shift to the center left and on that point, joins the Labor Party. The Labor Party is a centrist party.

[Question] Where do you then situate the coalition in power on the political scene?

[Answer] Clearly to the right, so far.

[Question] And therefore, the mathematical probability that there would be an alliance with the MMM is much stronger than an alliance with the parties in power?

[Answer] No, I would not say that because in politics, there are many elements that come to the surface at the last minute and that can change everything.

[Question] You were in the Labor Party when dissent was at its peak. Do you now think that that dissent caused the election defeat of the Labor Party?

[Answer] To a certain extent, I would say that yes, the dissent of Boodhoo, Beedassy and Gungoosingh contributed to the defeat of the Labor Party.

[Question] At one time, you were yourself associated with the dissenters.

[Answer] Yes, that is true. I was also in favor of changes within the Labor Party, but I did not want to see the death of the Labor Party. That is why at one time, we stood at a distance from the dissenters. What Duval just said in an interview with LE MAURICIEN confirms our apprehensions. Regarding the election defeat of the Labor Party, it is good to recall what Jugnauth himself said in the 1983 election campaign, to the effect that the MMM uttered many false statements about the Labor Party.

[Question] You were speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Recently, certain decisions were made concerning parliamentary matters. It is said that under the Laborite government, there were abuses of parliamentary matters. Do you agree?

[Answer] No, not at all. One has to understand the role of the institutions and respect the separation of powers, which is the very basis of democracy. The speaker is an independent person and he must ensure that the minority can make its voice heard, meaning that all opinions may be expressed freely. Deputies must be free to demand explanations from the ministers on matters of national interest.

[Question] Would the Labor Party be more comfortable in a coalition with the MMM or the alliance in power?

[Answer] In my opinion, the question of being comfortable does not arise. One must think of the country's interest and whether one works with X or Y is not important. One has to ensure the country's progress and see who can deliver the goods.

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MAURITIUS

PMSD SECRETARY GENERAL ON PARTY'S EVOLUTION

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 22 Jul 85 p 5

[Interview of Marc Hein, PMSD secretary general, by Finlay Salesse; date, place not specified]

[Text] [Question] At its last congress the Mauritian Social Democratic Movement (PMSD) gave the impression of having regained energy. What has been its development since then?

[Answer] It is true that the congress enabled the PMSD to regain its breath, and in this spirit we took the decision to install new structures. Thus, we established a national executive with a delegate for each regional committee by district, including Rodrigues, of course. In turn, each regional committee is composed of 15 members representing the regions in the district. We also have seats reserved in the national committee for youth, women and trade unions. For the present, we are giving priority to the towns in view of the coming municipal elections, though without forgetting the rural regions. The congress enabled the PMSD to relaunch its activities in all sectors; it restored confidence to the supporters by giving them more motivation. For the present, for lack of financial means, we have not been able to open a central office in Port-Louis.

Deputy Prime Minister: Prestige Post

[Question] This congress also enabled the PMSD supporters to make certain requests, among others that the function of the deputy prime minister be redefined. Was this indicative of a degree of irritation?

[Answer] Contrary to what has been said thus far, we have not called for increasing the powers of the deputy prime minister. We have asked that the role of the deputy prime minister be defined. We should know what he has the right to do or not to do. At present, the deputy prime minister is only a permanent acting prime minister.

[Question] Would you have wished the PMSD to have a role more in accord with the prestige of your leader?

[Answer] It is already primarily a prestige post. We would not want the prime minister's role to consist of inaugurations and elderly dinners. Sir Gaetan Duval has enormous potential for doing positive and constructive work for the country. I should point out that Sir Gaetan Duval and Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth have since had meetings and that the situation has been clarified. After August 1983, Sir Gaetan Duval had some special missions to promote the image of Mauritius abroad and especially to attract investors. Thus he should have a role that reflects his true value.

Relaxation

[Question] There has been a lot of talk recently about the budget and everything has been said on that subject. Let us turn to the tone of the speech of Paul Berenger, leader of the opposition, and the reply by the Prime Minister. How are these two speeches analyzed in the PMSD?

[Answer] I must say that I was very surprised by the tone of the leader of the opposition in Parliament. He had not made a speech that was so little constructive since the last elections. A former Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM) member now in the Mauritian Socialist Movement (MSM) member even said that he had not heard Paul Berenger make such a speech since 1976. In his response, the prime minister could only tell the truth.

[Question] An element of public opinion has it that the PMSD is a wing of the MSM conducting a policy of permanent tension. Are you in favor of relaxation or tension?

[Answer] It is not in the interest of economic development for the country to be in a permanent electoral campaign. What is needed is political stability, which is the sole guarantee of social stability. I favor relaxation. It is unfortunate that Paul Berenger attacks Gaetan Duval in every statement. Paul Berenger has a grudge against the PMSD because we have almost the same electoral constituency, for obviously when the PMSD gains it is the MMM that loses. We are fully disposed to have civilized relations with the opposition, but that does not settle matters while the MMM is systematically attacking the PMSD. We are adversaries, not enemies. For example, on two occasions Paul Berenger has refused to shake my hand. He did speak to me in 1982 when the results were announced at Quatre-Bornes.

[Question] Do you have any apprehensions that a relaxation between the prime minister and the opposition MMM might risk producing...

[Answer] Absolutely not. As recently as last week, the prime minister told us that he keeps his word. He said he had a political contract with the PMSD until 1988, and that it was his desire that the same alliance should participate in the general elections in 1988.

PMSD New Look?

[Question] There is also an element of public opinion that associates the PMSD with the hard blows of the government. That is, the government's tough decision-making. To what degree is this opinion justified?

[Answer] It is the MMM that has tried to give the PMSD this image. We are accused of having sent the police into the free zone. This decision was the responsibility of the prime minister, who is also minister of interior. Certainly we do approve of this measure in the context of the latest strike that shook the free zone.

[Question] You give the impression that the PMSD has changed. What is the 1985 look of the PMSD?

[Answer] We have the same philosophy: social-democracy. We have always advocated it. We are aware that it is necessary to industrialize and that we cannot depend forever on the sugar sector. We are currently experiencing an industrial revolution. We have to get through this phase, which involves some limitations in the benefits and wages of workers. We firmly believe in free enterprise. In Mauritius, at present, the job situation is such that the workers are at a disadvantage, but as the situation improves the employees and unions will become stronger to the extent that the employee will be able to choose his employer.

[Question] You have the label of the big protector of the private sector...

[Answer] That is not true. I am convinced that the MMM receives many more donations and contributions from the private sector than the PMSD. If we had received help from the private sector we would have opened our office in Port-Louis. We respect the private sector for the role that it plays in creating jobs. As we know, the public sector can no longer create productive employment. We have always been in favor of a mixed economy in which the private sector fully plays its role, under government surveillance so there will be no abuse. Free health treatment and education and social security are essential in Mauritius so that every citizen will have the opportunity to develop, whatever his socio-economic origin.

[Question] Is the PMSD preparing for the municipal elections?

Municipal Elections

[Answer] The political bureau met and we established organization committees for the Alliance's participation in these elections. We have received very many requests from people wanting to be candidates. The choice has not yet been made, nor has an emblem been chosen. Harish Boodhoo will be the campaign manager. He has performed that job very well in the past. He will not be the leader of the Alliance for this campaign. Gaetan Duval and Dr Ghurburrun will be in the forefront of the campaign for the municipal elections. I maintain that the PMSD administration has been far better than that of the MMM in the municipalities. At Curepipe, for example, the roads have never been so rough and trash service so poor...

[Question] What are your predictions?

[Answer] Port-Louis is perhaps the most difficult town, but we have a good chance of taking the other municipalities with hard work.

[Question] There is more and more persistent talk about the PMSD-Harish Boodhoo axis. What do you think about that?

[Answer] It is not true. There is no PMSD-Boodhoo axis. The PMSD has very good relations with him. He respects us and we respect him. It is unfortunate that the MMM seeks to give him the "Hindu communalist" label. I do not think that is true. The MMM is using Harish Boodhoo as a kind of scapegoat. He has been credited with many unpleasant decisions.

Rodrigues: "More Must Be Done"

[Question] You pay special attention to Rodrigues Island, to the extent that the leader of the opposition congratulated you on your speech to the legislative assembly.

[Answer] I often go to Rodrigues for professional and political reasons. It should not be forgotten that the PMSD won 38 percent of the vote in Rodrigues in the last elections. The PMSD electorate has not altered since then. Rather, there have also been numerous new members. I believe that we now control about 50 percent of the Rodrigues electorate.

[Question] Will the PMSD put up candidates in Rodrigues?

[Answer] Let us say, for the moment, that we will maintain our presence in Rodrigues and that we will follow the Rodrigues situation with interest. We believe that if the MMM puts up candidates in Rodrigues, it will inevitably take away from the Organization of the Rodrigues People (OPR). Rodrigues is the poorest part of Mauritius. This situation must be remedied. The government is certainly making efforts, but more must be done. Many Mauritians do not realize that 80 percent of Rodriguans do not have drinking water and electricity. In Rodrigues, one must also take into account high population and very high cost of living. Very soon, a large PMSD delegation will go to Rodrigues for a series of meetings and gatherings.

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MAURITIUS

PSM SECRETARY GENERAL ON ROLE OF PARTY

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 24 Jul 85 p 5

[Interview with PSM Secretary General Jenkeeparsad Nundalalee by Finlay Salesse; date, place not specified]

[Text] [Question] The Malagasy Socialist Party (PSM) which you joined in 1980 was dissolved prior to the 1983 elections in order to establish the Malagasy Socialist Movement (MSM). Now, in company with some old friends, you are reviving it from the ashes. What is your objective, exactly?

[Answer] A vacuum was created following the 1983 elections. We were allied in the elections based on a socialist program. Unfortunately, this program was not respected by the government. There was a complete deviation by the MSM after the elections. Today, it is big capital that wins through the regime. Our objective now is to relaunch the PSM with its original philosophy. Some among us at the time did not want the PSM to dissolve in order to merge into the MSM. We wanted to keep our identity, color and emblem. The events since 1983 have proved us right. Some of us, at the time of the fusion with the MSM called for "mette roche lor le ker." We had a guarantee at the time, a formal guarantee, that our requests would not be changed. We had the impression that we would have our say. Also, a delegation met at the time with the prime minister, who told us that everything would be the same in the future.

[Question] Yet you waited a long time before recognizing the government's "deviation," as you call it.

[Answer] We wanted above all to give the government a chance. We wanted to give the government a grace period, to let it work in peace during the initial period.

[Question] What are the areas of your dissatisfaction with your former friends?

Abuse of Confidence

[Answer] In fact, we have been noting the change in course by the government for some time. We had meetings and we concluded that this was an abuse of the electorate's confidence. This was not what people expected. To get back to your question, I want to be precise. Do you know that recommendations that

are sent to the ministers are thrown in the trash can? The little man in our districts is frustrated. The voters no longer know whom to approach. That is a primary problem. The other problem is the sugar industry. The MSM engaged in too much demagogy regarding this sector during the 1983 campaign. The MSM criticized the "gift" of 57 million rupees, then later came to give more. At any rate, these are only palliative measures that will not solve the problems in this sector. What is needed is redistribution of Mauritius land so that the unemployed and small planters can get a share. There is no social justice in this area. What unemployed person can buy 50 to 100 arpents of land? The little man should have been able to buy land through the cooperatives.

[Question] How do you explain this "change," as you describe it, on the part of the MSM?

[Answer] It is the influence of the landed capitalists and their ideas. The wolf has disguised itself as a lamb. It is the "vested interests" that have won out.

[Question] Are you alluding to the Mauritian Social Democratic Party (PMSD)? By the way, were you aware of the Harish Boodhoo-Duval contacts at the time of the election contest?

[Answer] You know, I joined the PSM on 20 April 1980. I learned later that there had been support by the PMSD and that it concerned public address facilities and legal counsel. I learned that much later. If I had known about it, I would not have joined the PSM. Some would never have joined the PSM if they had known. It is unfortunate that only now has that become known.

"Protection of the Mountain"

[Question] In your press conference, you said, at the time of the recent launching of the PSM, that you opposed the policy of "protecting the mountain."

[Answer] A meritocracy must replace the concept of "protection of the mountain." I confess that I get wound up in it myself. "Protection of the mountain," in my opinion, is based on the following three main elements: 1) caste basis, 2) communal basis, and 3) political affiliation basis. This concept is based on one of these alternatives. We in the PSM say that meritocracy should come first.

[Question] How can one interpret your silence since the elections, other than that you are frustrated?

[Answer] The question does not arise. In the new PSM, all of us have jobs, we work. We are not committing blackmail. We are frustrated, yes... by the deviation of the MSM, by its change in language. There is nothing personal in our demand for more social justice.

[Question] However, you cannot deny that the government has made a considerable effort in creating jobs.

[Answer] That is propaganda. Some say that 15,000 jobs have been created, others 18,000. One must be objective and honest. We must not be negative. It is in the free zone and the textile field that jobs have been created, and, as everyone knows, textiles do not have a promising future. All this is limited. And it will certainly not solve the unemployment problem.

[Question] I asked you a question at the beginning about the PMSD's influence on the government.

[Answer] Everyone knows that the PMSD has very strong influence in the government. The MSM has a majority in the cabinet and it is the PMSD that is stronger. That is absurd. History repeats itself. Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth is weak within the government. Hence the atmosphere of insecurity and fear.

The Break: "Blame Is Shared"

[Question] At the time, were you aware of the reasons for the Mauritian Militant Movement-PSM break? Were you very close to Harish Boodhoo at that time?

[Answer] Yes, I was very close to Harish Boodhoo, but we were not aware of what was happening. I believe that the blame is shared. Nevertheless, after another victory some people committed the same mistakes.

[Question] To what are you referring?

[Answer] To certain initiatives at the level of intercommunity relations, the practice of caste preference, and protection of families.

[Question] What does the new PSM have to say about the 1985-1986 budget?

[Answer] There are some small socializing measures, but it is not a socialist budget. The budget is PMSD-inspired and the rightist orientation is very evident.

[Question] What is the philosophy of the new PSM?

[Answer] Our philosophy is socialist in inspiration. We want to raise the standard of living of the little man. We are against freeing of prices. We want a complete reform in the educational field. We want each Mauritian to regain his dignity. Grants must be given to the most deprived. Bringing in 3,000 pairs of glasses from China is not going to solve our problems. That big friendly country should have been asked to finance projects, to provide training for Mauritians.

[Question] What is going to be your stand for the municipal elections?

[Answer] We expect to play an important role in those elections. We will be announcing our positions in the near future. We will very soon begin a series of sessions and public meetings. It is totally abnormal for the Local Government Service Commission to have so many powers. Recruiting,

appointments, and promotions should revert to the municipalities. There should be a complete decentralization. Also, the district and village councils should have more powers. Now, these organizations have no power, though democratically elected.

[Question] Are you going to participate in the municipal elections?

[Answer] As I told you, we will explain our position in the near future.

[Question] Will you also be present for the 1988 legislative elections?

[Answer] Certainly. We will take part in the 1988 elections in the framework of an alliance. That is a reality that one cannot neglect. We will decline only if we do not find suitable allies.

[Question] What is the strategy of the new PSM?

[Answer] We have already started to work in the field. We are going to strengthen our base by putting in place adequate structures. We are going to offer an alternative program. We are going to show the people that we are worth something on the political level.

[Question] It is whispered, and it is no secret, that you have the support of certain ministries.

[Answer] For practical reasons, we cannot reveal their names at this stage. There are also many former PSM members who want to join us, but for the moment, because of their occupations, they cannot do so. We have also established a recruiting committee that will analyze case by case.

English and French: Two International Languages

[Question] In regard to languages at the CPE [expansion unknown] level, have you taken any position?

[Answer] We should not touch English and French, because they are the two international languages. We must consider the interests of the children. If tomorrow China is willing to accept Mauritian workers, then they will have to learn Chinese; if India is willing to take 10,000 Mauritian workers per year, then they will have to learn Hindi. If people are to go to Saudi Arabia, they will learn Arabic.

[Question] What is the future of the new PSM, in your view?

[Answer] If we continue with this momentum, we will have a very brilliant future. Nevertheless, we have a difficult task to achieve. We have an important role to play on the political scene. Our role will be considerable in some districts, and 17 out of 20 districts can be regarded as marginal.

[Question] That is almost blackmail.

[Answer] That is not blackmail. We established the PSM because we do not agree with the MSM. I must tell you that Harish Boodhoo has totally changed. Today we are learning his real face. In the PSM, we are now trying to work for a better Mauritius. We do not have contempt for the small worker. We will not smear anyone. We will not criticise people's private lives, and we will not again make the mistake of killing the PSM.

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MAURITIUS

MANY NATIONS PARTICIPATE IN 2ND INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS GAMES

Participant Nations Give Reaction

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 2 Sep 85 p 5

[Article: "What They Think of the 2nd Indian Ocean Islands Games; Sir Maurice Rault Stated He Was Pleased With Mauritian Athletes' Performance"]

[Text] When L'EXPRESS asked him yesterday what were his impressions of the Second Indian Ocean Islands Games, Sir Maurice Rault, chairman of the Games Organization Committee (COJ) stated that he was delighted on the whole with the event.

"I think I can state that all commissions did a remarkable job," Sir Maurice said. "The only problem was the unavailability of Yves Fanchette, whom we missed a lot during the whole week of the Games..."

The COJ chairman also said that he was fully satisfied with the performance of Mauritian athletes in all disciplines, and especially in athletics; badminton and tennis, where they really distinguished themselves.

"Some feats did not draw many comments--for instance the second set between Madagascar and Mauritius in male volley ball, during which a remarkable thing happened, as the umpire pointed out to me: there had been so many exchanges that the game-sheet was full!"

Sir Maurice Rault also added: "I am very pleased that Mauritius won the sailing competition, for we forget too often that we live on an island."

"Finally, I want to congratulate the police, the press and the public for their contribution to the Games... The police, who worked long hours and kept smiling; the press who superbly mobilized and motivated the public; and finally the public itself, who fully showed the Mauritian kindness and sense of fair play," Sir Maurice Rault concluded.

Mr Ram Ruhee, general secretary of the Mauritian Olympic Committee, is of the opinion that, since a commitment had been made to organize the Second Islands Games, a challenge had to be met, and that it was met brilliantly.

"As for me, I knew that once the commitment was made everything would go well, with the government's financial contribution, since there is no lack of men of good will to take care of the organization proper, and they have shown once again that they can work minor miracles," Mr Ruhee commented.

"As general secretary of the Mauritian Olympic Committee, I wish to thank all those who contributed to the success of these Games. I am thinking in particular of the prime minister, Mr Anerood Jugnauth, who did not spare us his encouragements, and the minister of youth and sports, Mr Michael Glover, who really did everything possible to ensure the success of the Games," Mr Ruhee added.

He also said that the Mauritian athletes' performance was also not disappointing.

"It is only in the swimming competition that we failed, but we should not forget that until very recently we did not have an Olympic swimming pool. But in the two leading disciplines, athletics and soccer, we faced the challenge--and won gold medals. As far as the soccer final is concerned, I wish to pay a personal tribute to the Reunion team for, although our players had played two major games before the final, I for one have never seen a better Reunion team before..." Mr Ruhee concluded.

Fully Satisfied

Dr Maecha, chairman of the Comoro Olympic Committee, is of the opinion that the Games took place in a very pleasant atmosphere. "The organization was perfect, and I hope that the same will be true of the next Games. We were very well received in Mauritius and our stay was excellent."

To the question: "Did you find the Mauritian public chauvinistic?," Dr Maecha answered: "No, we did not notice. It is normal that they should be somewhat chauvinistic."

Resounding Success

Mr Antonio Gopal, one of the officials of the Seychelles delegation: "The Games went off very well, and they were a more resounding success than we had hoped. Mauritian hospitality was fantastic. We felt at home here. Even though we did not win as many medals as in 1979, I am still pleased with the performance of the Seychellois athletes. They have improved in recent years, but so have other countries participating in the Games. What counts is not just to win medals, but to participate."

Good Atmosphere

Mr Jose Robert Ardon, first vice-chairman of the International Games Committee and chairman of the Reunion Organization Committee:

"The Second Islands Games took place to the organizers' satisfaction. I like to say that when an individual or a team are determined to achieve a given goal, there is no insuperable obstacle."

"We are already looking forward to the 1989 meeting. I would have liked to see members of the International Games Committee meet every other year in order to strengthen the relations existing between Indian Ocean islands."

Mr Ardon mentioned "a certain public" that was unable to overcome its partisanship. "But," he went on, "we have already forgotten the unpleasant remarks that we did not deserve."

Exemplary Hospitality

Mr Jean Andre Ndremanjary, the Malagasy minister of sports, said that Mauritius did things in style when it organized the Second Islands Games. The organization, he said, was perfect. The minister pointed out that the Games went off well.

"Mauritian hospitality was exemplary. We felt it during our whole stay on the island. The Mauritian public is very likable. It was there at all stages of the Games. I do not think that you can say it was chauvinistic."

Friendship Games

Mr Paul Berenger, opposition leader: "Cooperation in the field of sports is an important component of regional cooperation. The Games were friendship games among the peoples of the region. Mauritius experienced a great moment of national unity. Fortunately, this does not end with the Games."

Youth Festival

Lt Col D. Bhima, chairman of the Mauritius Football Association: "The Games were a great success. We had the impression that Mauritius was living in the present for a week. All this went too fast. These Games positively cemented relations among Indian Ocean islands. They were a youth festival and they could go on. Waiting another four years is too long. Why not organize soccer and athletics meetings, for instance every other year?"

A Challenge to Meet

Mr Ram Ruhee, secretary of the Mauritian National Olympic Committee and of the International Games Committee: "Mauritius was faced with a challenge and was able to meet it. We do not have to be ashamed of the Games organization or of our athletes' performance. We should congratulate the prime minister and the minister of youth and sports for the total support they gave to that event."

Satisfaction

The prime minister, Mr A. Jugnauth: "I am fully pleased with the way the Games went off. All went well. The Mauritians behaved very well. These Games should further consolidate the relations of friendship and cooperation among Indian Ocean islands. The success of these Games exceeded our hopes and sports have a promising future in Mauritius."

A Sigh of Relief

When asked about the Second Indian Ocean Islands Games, Mr Michael Glover, minister of youth and sports, stated: "First conclusion: a big sigh of relief for, like it or not, in the eyes of the public I was the one responsible for the Games. I am pleased that all went well. That made us proud, for Mauritian athletes performed surprisingly well. It is true that they had been in training for a year, but we had had no opportunity to judge their quality."

"Now, thanks to the competitions that took place during the Islands Games, our athletes have been able to assess their performance, which is excellent. This will boost their self-confidence. They realized that it pays to work."

"Now that the Second Games are over, we must aim at larger objectives: for instance the African Games."

"Another conclusion that delights me is that feeling of Mauritian unity that emerged during the Games."

When asked about the public's behavior, minister Glover said it was fantastic. "I was somewhat afraid at first that it would border on chauvinism. But we must also understand that, during these Games, the public had an opportunity to unite as a Mauritian nation in order to support those who represented it," Mr Glover said.

Perfect Organization

Mr Jean Roland Delaitre, chairman of the International Games Committee: "I am pleased with the way the Games went off. The organization was perfect--I shall not hesitate to use that word here. The weather was not nice during the Games, but it was superb on this afternoon of the closing day."

"I do not think that we can speak of 'chauvinism' on the part of the Mauritian public. From where I was, I did not note any unfair attitude. I believe that the public understood the fraternity of the islands and is working to promote it."

"We must now hope that the sports facilities provided in Mauritius for these Second Games will be used to promote sport."

Closing Ceremonies

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 2 Sep 85, pp 1, 7

[Article: "For the Closing Ceremony of the Second Indian Ocean Islands Games Yesterday at George-V Stadium: A Symphony of Colors and Movements to Consolidate Friendship Among Indian Ocean Peoples"]

[Text] The inspiration, the elan, the emotion, the panache, the sparkle and the fever of this event without precedent in Mauritius, the Second Indian Ocean

Islands Games polarized around these symbolic images directed by choreographer Patrick Athaw on the 26 steps leading to the basin where the torch of the Games burned for 193 hours and a few seconds.

The better to demonstrate that sport will survive after the torch is extinguished, the dancers of the Athaw company continued with a sports ballet on the podium. The musical theme was by Jean Michel Jarre, aided by synthesizers.

It was then 16:04. As Gerard de Nerval would have said, the sun's dusty rays were blazing straight down.

The flame of the Second Indian Ocean Islands Games was dying progressively, as the plastic poses on the steps were becoming blurred.

After that, it was time to consecrate this communion of the Indian Ocean islands with a wild "sega." The show, a symphony of colors and gracious movements, had started at 14:00, when the loudspeakers were giving off extracts from the song entitled "Every time you go away, you take a piece of me..."

No musical piece could have better started the closing ceremony of the islands friendship festival under the sign of sport.

At times, the show was taking place simultaneously on three levels (central podium, the quay with Jean Pierre d'Argent, the show organizer's superb boat, and the callisthenics group) and had been organized down to the last detail. Neil Diamond's interpretation of the musical theme of that extraordinary film, "Jonathan Livingstone, Seagull," was the high point of this afternoon that marked the end of the Indian Ocean Islands Games.

However, to prove that show officials did not forget local color, a Mauritian touch was contributed by the "ravanes" and hoarse voice of Ti-Frere in one of his famous compositions, "Roseda."

We should also mention the broadcasting of the famous "Mo passe la riviere Tanier" [I crossed the Tanier River], that lulled much of the Mauritian population before the advent of the "Knight Riders" and other TV "Dallas."

The lullaby was movingly interpreted by a superb flutist who did not leave the public indifferent, and the public showed its fairness by applauding indiscriminately all delegations, although some will still speak of Mauritian chauvinism. These numbers were part of a historical overview of Mauritius's development, based on a text written by Marcelle Lagesse that was read by a voice off stage, as is done by great movie makers.

Well, then, yes! One scene brought to mind sequences in the manner of Kurosawa's "Kagemusha"--bearers of flags in Mauritius's various colors rushing to the podium for the official wind-up of the Second Indian Ocean Islands Games.

It is 15:40. A blossoming of colors invades the lawn of George-V Stadium. Flag bearers take up their positions. The national anthem is played. All in the stadium stand up. When the Marseillaise was played in the Curepipe basin, only the delegation of athletes from the sister island had stood up. It was during the historical scenes depicting Mauritius's history.

The colorful show reaches its high point. Leading officials take place on the rostrum. In the background, the flag of the Indian Ocean Islands Games is lowered by an elegantly dressed team of the Special Mobile Force. The flag will be handed over to the representative of the island that will have the signal honor of sending invitations to the 1989 meeting.

After the Mauritian national anthem, the Malagasy anthem is played and the Malagasy flag is raised, while the callisthenics group continues its original numbers that fill the public and TV viewers with wonder. The climax was probably when the group wrote "Au revoir" and "1989" at the end of the ceremony.

Children were delighted to see Tizan the Dodo leave in helicopter, the way he had come, leaving his legend on the stadium lawn. The famous character of the Indian Ocean Islands Games is popular with children and adults alike: athletes and hostesses took over the podium when Tizan the Dodo and his friends started dancing on an adaptation of "For he's a jolly good fellow" by the Gerard Cimiotti band. Before "kidnapping" Tizan the Dodo, the helicopter appeared in the sky leaving behind a trail in the four Mauritian colors.

The picture that we will remember when we talk about the Second Indian Ocean Islands Games, will certainly be that of the athletes, all delegations joined, hand in hand, giving thus an example of unity and fraternity to the politicians firmly seated in the stadium foldaway seats or watching at home in their slippers.

The spectators at George-V stadium did not hesitate to follow the athletes, giving a very nice image of this superb sunny afternoon in Curepipe. After all their workouts in gyms and other stadiums, and although still aching from all their physical efforts, the athletes started to sing and dance. Who would disagree with Pierre Renaud who wrote that "the destiny of islands is to sing..."?

9294

CSO: 3419/588

MAURITIUS

BRIEFS

INDIA FINANCES PROJECTS--India agreed to finance 23 Mauritian projects at a cost of 25 million Indian rupees (about 31 million Mauritian rupees). An agreement to that effect was signed Friday in New Delhi, at the close of the meeting of the third joint Indian-Mauritian commission, by an Indian delegation headed by the Indian state minister of development, Mr Kurshed Alam Khan, and the delegation headed by the Mauritian minister of plan and development, Dr B. Ghurburrun. The sectors that will benefit from this Indian aid are agriculture, small and mid-size businesses, tourism and biogas. The Mauritian delegation is expected to return in the next few days. The second mixed Indian-Mauritian commission met in Mauritius last year. Mr Narasimha Rao, minister of foreign affairs, was heading the Indian delegation. [Text] [Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 2 Sep 85 pp 1, 5] 9294

CSO: 3419/588

NIGERIA

BABANGIDA CALLS ON ECOWAS TO STAMP OUT TERRORISM

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 11 Sep 85 pp 1, 17

[Text]

PRESIDENT Ibrahim Babangida has called on member-states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to come together and stamp out terrorism within the sub-region.

President Babangida made the call yesterday at Dodan Barracks when he received the Togolese Petroleum Minister, Mr. Barry Barke.

The Togolese minister was at Dodan Barracks to deliver a special message from his country's leader, General Gnassingbe Eyadema to the President, General Babangida.

General Babangida expressed disappointment over acts of terrorism in the sub-region and commended the Togolese leader for efforts in finding peaceful solution to the problems of his country.

President Babangida declared: "We appreciate it and we will give our full support to your country."

Continuing, the President stated that Nigeria, as a peace-loving country, was not in support of arson and

destruction to lives and property.

He told the envoy that Nigeria would call for a quadripartite ministerial meeting of the sub-region "as soon as things were settled."

Earlier, the Togolese minister, Mr. Barke, had briefed President Babangida of the "act of sabotage being perpetrated by some elements believed to be illegal aliens from a neighbouring country"

He added that explosives being planted by these aliens had already damaged some important buildings in the Togolese capital.

The envoy noted that the task ahead of President Babangida was enormous, but expressed the hope that as the chairman of the ECOWAS, the President would be in a better position to find a lasting solution to the problems facing his country.

Mr. Barke also called on the Nigerian government to assist his country in finding solution to its internal problems, adding that his country had great regard for Nigeria.

CSO: 3400/83

NIGERIA

RAINFALL FIGURES UP, BOOSTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 16 Sep 85 pp 1, 24

[Article by Dapo Ajibola]

[Text]

STATISTICAL figures of rainfall in Nigeria between January and July showed that there was remarkable improvement in this year's performance over that for the same period last year in the southern parts, the northern parts performance was below the figures for the same period of last year.

A breakdown of the figures revealed that most of the early rains of the year occurred between latitudes 4 and 8 degrees north of the equator with amounts ranging from 2.30 millimetres (mm) to 5 mm.

From January to March, in the South distribution was sporadic while in April, rainstorm intensity exceeded 60mm per hour in most cases. Compared with last year's figures and the expected values for the equivalent period, the rains in the first four months, although showed improvement over that of last year it still fell below normal values.

In the south-western areas rains performance during the period under review showed the cumulative figures as being slightly better than the 1984 figures.

For example, the Ibadan station recorded 951.5 mm in 1985 against the 788.6 mm of 1984 and below the figures of about 2,000 mm normal. From Akure station 943.5 was recorded against 936.1 mm for 1984. From Warri 1,676.4 mm against the 1,542.6 mm of 1984 and the 4,000 mm normal.

In the south-Eastern areas where the rains were heaviest, Calabar recorded 1,767.5mm against 1,313mm of 1984 and a normal of about 4,500mm.

Port Harcourt recorded 1,143.9 mm against 608.2mm in 1984 and a normal of about 4,100mm and Onitsha recorded 1,152.2mm against the 1,000.3mm of 1984.

In the northern states, that is, central region areas and semi arid sahel areas, rains did come early this year (starting by March) but they recorded below normal.

The performance of rainfall in the Sahel semi arid areas was poor. These areas include Sokoto, Kano, Borno and some parts of Gongola and Kaduna states.

The figure recorded in the only three days of rain in May

from Sokoto stood at 27.9mm against the normal figure of 61 mm.

Overall performance of rainfall in these region was very much below that of 1984, as could be seen from these cumulative figures, Kano recorded 191.3mm as against the 291.9 mm of 1984. Sokoto's figure was 219.mm to the 291.9 in 1984. Maiduguri recorded 177.1mm to the 1984 figure of 213.3mm.

The rainfall in the central areas witnessed almost the same level with the 1984 figures. The cumulative figure for the seven months showed that Kaduna had 338.5mm to the 1985 figure of 595.7mm Zaria had 757.3mm to 704.9mm, Lokoja 517.1mm to 585.1mm, Minna 470.1mm to 441.1mm, Jos 542.8mm to 538.4mm and Yola 557.8mm to 481.3mm.

Expert opinions on the overall performance of the rainfall on agricultural production this year have been positive.

But for the pests noticed in some parts of the northern states the country is expected to have a bumper harvest because the rains, apart from coming very early this year throughout the country have been evenly spread.

The rainfall recorded in the first quarter of this year had encouraging signs, especially for early agricultural practices. This was responsible for the bumper harvest already had in maize and early yam production.

Wide area distribution of rains in the central states for example Bauchi and Kwara is an Omen for good harvest of yam and groundnuts this year.

The below normal rainfall in the central areas was not a serious sign drought condition, like in the previous years. The rains recorded so far, in these areas plus the distribution of almost normal amount of sunshine, that is less cloud cover, summed up to give fairly good farming conditions for most crops especially cereals.

CSO: 3400/85

NIGERIA

MIXED VIEWS ON IMF AGREEMENT OUTLINED

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 16 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Nduka Nwosu]

[Text]

A MIXED grill cuts across the current IMF loan debate as opponents outweigh numerically their proponents who say the loan is the only way out of the current economic depression.

The most popular reason bandied by the opposition group is that no Third World country has gotten away any better after an IMF loan has been taken to stand up an economy that is bad enough.

Again Nigeria, as sociologists say, does not have the kind of cultural and political fabric to gauge repressions resulting from the imposition of stringent rules on an IMF debtor nation.

Finance experts also query the reasonableness of the conditionalities asking that if Nigeria cannot pay her debts now without a debt principal plus interest taking a toll on income, how will she balance her accounts when she has an additional debt to pay to the IMF — a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

* Proponents however say that Nigeria is only begging for an IMF loan and naturally must comply with the rules or leave the IMF alone insisting that on balance, it is in Nigeria's own interest to accept the loan since it will seem there are more benefits to taking it.

Professor G. O. Nwankwo two term executive director Monetary and Banking Policy of the Central Bank of Nigeria, says the IMF issue is more political than economic whichever way you look at it.

The West, Nwankwo insists, does not want to see any country undermining the IMF and to see a country wade through its economic problems without the IMF is a defeat to Western economic interests. This is why Nwankwo says the West rallied round its export credit agencies who ensured that trade credits to Nigeria must not be refinanced except she took the IMF loan.

Professor Nwankwo advises that despite popular opinion from the West regarding the need for an IMF loan, Nigeria must resist all attempts at accepting something that may not be in her

best interest but he adds, since every government want to survive, the present military regime must assess its ability to survive the consequences of accepting the loan.

Nwankwo says implementation is the basic problem because it subjects budget procedures to the IMF technocrat.

The IMF conditionalities Professor Nwankwo explains have never been fully implemented anywhere in the Third World. Besides, its success or failure depends on the package mix and a shoddily implemented conditionality collapses the package mix not the IMF.

Professor Nwankwo will on a last note want the government to spell out the current IMF conditionality package mix in particular on devolution before calling for a debate.

While Victor Ogundipe, Assistant General Manager corporate promotion of the First Bank, argues that since Nigeria is part of an interdependent economic system

and to the extent that she wants to continue to be a part of that system, she must pursue a path that generates the continuous supply of foreign credit to the nation. Dr. Tade Aina of the Unilag Sociology Department says this must not be done at the expense of a mass suicide.

Aina observes that unemployment, subsidy withdrawal and devaluation and the general hardship arising from the fulfillment of the conditionalities will be so repulsive that Nigerians are not likely to withstand them.

While Aina will want the production and negotiation to continue, he adds that it is instructive now that debtor nations should come together for the new international economic order via a new institutional financial order.

Aina believes that in the final analysis, it is not the IMF

loan but the restructuring of the economy along endogenous, autonomous and egalitarian lines.

Ogundipe still on the IMF loan says, to manage the package six, there is a need for a multiple exchange rate, a cushioning of devaluation, one for industry and another for individual consumers.

However, Dr. Wale Adewunmi of the Unilag Department of Finance in the Faculty of Business Administration cautions against the present package mix that is bound to expose Nigeria to cheap imports and weaken the economy further.

Dr. Adewunmi will want a situation where Nigeria closes her eyes against the importation of all forms of agricultural consumer goods and experiment with what she has locally.

Dr. Adewunmi's idea is that a situation of borrowing

to augment for your present income will never be balanced because the same insufficiency that led to borrowing will eventually lead you to continue to borrow.

An IMF loan Adewunmi notes that allows external forces to tighten our economy portrays Nigeria as a country that is economically indisciplined and since we are already internally cutting ourselves to size, the government should continue and forget the IMF loan.

The acting Managing Director of National Bank of Nigeria, Mr. C. T. A. Milton Job speaking to Business Times correspondent NDU UGHAMADU said that the country should take the loan adding "We should negotiate the terms in such a way that it would assist the growth and development of the country."

CSO: 3400/85

NIGERIA

ITALIAN COUNTERTRADE AGREEMENT HURTS DOMESTIC CERAMICS

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 16 Sep 85 p 3

[Text]

CERAMIC Manufacturers Nigeria Limited based in Kano will stand to lose in Kano will stand to lose if the government signs its proposed counter-trade contract worth ₦800,000 with Italy.

If the contract is eventually implemented, the company's projected loss would have run to the tune of about 42 per cent.

This loss represents a profit margin for the initial German supplier and a series of duties payable to the Italian authorities, company chairman and National President of the Ceramic Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (CMAN), Alhaji S. Umore has disclosed.

Speaking in Kano recently, Alhaji Umore said that the company had been granted the counter-trade

with Italy following a cut in its ₦6.7m import licence application in July, 1984 for the importation of its essential materials.

However, these materials could be manufactured locally, if for instance, we have the foreign exchange to bring in the machineries next year, we can start the processing of local gibson deposits into the Plaster of Paris, he further said.

According to him, products of such process would later be "supplied to other ceramic sanitary ware manufacturers and cement industries which are presently importing gibson.

Alhaji Umore further stated that since his company lacks the Plaster of Paris in stock, it has been loading bricks into the "kill" since the "kill" will collapse if fired empty.

Earlier, in a letter dated August 8 to the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industries, I.D.C.C. Division, Lagos the Ceramic Manufacturers Association of Nigeria had stated the contribution of the ceramic industry to Nigeria's economic recovery through foreign exchange savings.

In the letter, the association stated that Nigeria would be saving ₦108,000 in foreign exchange annually through 85.51 per cent local raw materials sourcing in the ceramic industry.

Moreover, the sum of ₦48.4m, ₦217.1m and ₦397.9m would be saved over a foreign exchange requirement of ₦13.4m, ₦32.9m and ₦53.4m in 1985, 1986 and 1987 respectively.

CSO: 3400/85

NIGERIA

NEW CRIMINAL DIVISION CREATED FOR SUPREME COURT

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 13 Sep 85 p 9

[Text]

A NEW criminal division has been created in the Supreme Court of Nigeria to hasten the trial of murder cases on appeal, the retiring Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Sodeinde Sowemimo announced in Lagos Wednesday.

Justice Sowemimo who was visiting the Kirikiri Maximum Security Prisons as part of his farewell tour of the Lagos judiciary, said that it was "terrible" to have as many as 17 murder cases awaiting trial in one prison.

He expressed concern over the number of remand cases in prison, which according to prison officials, was 528 for the year 1984/85.

He was told that there were 200 murder cases awaiting trial in both the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court, as well as those convicted and were awaiting the decision of the state governor.

The Chief Justice was also told that there were about 2,324 inmates at the maximum security prisons, a number which prison authorities said was more than the capacity of the prison.

CSO: 3400/81

NIGERIA

1ST QUARTER CRUDE OIL PROCESSING FIGURES

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 14 Sep 85 p 6

[Text]

NIGERIA'S three refineries processed a total of 1,855,780 tonnes of crude in the second quarter this year, according to the "Nigerian Petroleum News".

The monthly publication reports in its current issue that of the total, the Port Harcourt Refinery processed 670,663 tonnes, comprising 222,765 tonnes in April, 229,717 tonnes in May and 218,181 tonnes in June.

The Warri facility refined 56,257, 92,891 and 264,376 tonnes respectively during the three-month period, all totalling 413,524 tonnes.

Output at the Kaduna Refinery totalled 771,593 tonnes, made up of 319,452, 207,350 and 244,791 tonnes over the three months.

Petroleum News further reports that except for Double Purpose Kerosene (DPK) and Low Pour Fuel Oil (LPFO), the Port Harcourt plant's production of most petroleum products fell below refining programme.

Port Harcourt produced 173,419 tonnes of High Pour Fuel Oil (HPFO), 171,537 tonnes of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO),

151,829 tonnes of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), 103,803 tonnes of DPK, 80,577 tonnes of LPFO and 2,082 tonnes of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

The publication notes a substantial shortfall in the production of all products at the Warri refinery.

Premium Motor Spirit was slightly over one-third and both DPK and HPFO just over one-half, while AGO was about two-thirds of programme.

The facility produced 104,965 tonnes of HPFO, 100,510 tonnes of AGO, 68,304 tonnes of PMS, 61,280 tonnes of DPK, 14,738 tonnes of LPFO and 2,000 tonnes of LPG.

Petroleum News further reports a "fair" performance at the Kaduna plant, with Kerosene production exceeding the programmes by 14.5 per cent. All other products were short-produced, but the shortfall was relatively low.

The refinery's output during the quarter amounted to 229,873 tonnes and 7,773 tonnes of AGO, 123,613 tonnes of DPK, 99,673 tonnes of LPFO and 7,773 tonnes of LPG. (NAN)

CSO: 3400/81

NIGERIA

BORNO GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER RICE, SEMOVITA SALE

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 12 Sep 85 p 24

[Text]

THE Government of Borno State has taken over the sale and distribution of semovita and rice in the state with effect from this week.

The Press Secretary to the governor, Alhaji Lawal Talba said in a press release that Governor Abdul Mumini Aminu had also fixed prices for the commodities.

He said that a bag of 100kg of rice would sell at 65 Naira throughout the state, while a bag of semovita is seven Naira in Maiduguri and eight Naira in the local government areas.

The release stated that the governor had advised traders to adhere strictly to the new approved prices warning that failure to do that would be dealt with accordingly.

He said the governor had appealed to the general public to take note of the new rates and report any violation to the law enforcement agencies.

The governor's action was in response to reports about rising costs of semovita and rice.

By Tuesday evening, the public sale of these commodities by the government had started.

When the *New Nigerian* visited markets and other locations where the commodities were sold in Maiduguri, no rice or semovita were available for sale. Customers were being directed by traders from one location to the other, all in vain.

However, rice in retail quantities was available at the Gamboru market and selling for five Naira per measure.

CSO: 3400/83

NIGERIA

SHAKE UP AT NATIONAL STEEL COUNCIL

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 14 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Tawey Zakka]

[Text]

A MAJOR shake-up going on at the National Steel Council (Exploration and Mining Division), Kaduna has swept away in the first instance its Director, Mr. J.A. Adewumi and three other top-ranking officers.

The others are Mr. J.O. Ashaolu, Chief Accountant, Mr. W. Osuocha, Senior Accountant and Mr. H. A. Oladosu, a Principal Internal Auditor.

Director J.A. Adewumi's "compulsory retirement" was announced in a Federal Ministry of Mines, Power and Steel circular letter No. MMP.4736/S.1/VOL.2/339 dated September 9, 1985.

The same circular announced the appointment of Mr. A.D. Famuboni as acting Director.

The *New Nigerian* gathered reliably that the retirement of the four officers was the first step taken by the Federal Government to implement the report of an administrative panel which probed the council last year.

It was further gathered that the heads of many more high-ranking officers would roll in what sources said would be "a clean sweep" of the council.

The new acting Director, Mr. A.D. Famuboni, had met with different categories of staff and sources said that at his meeting with all workers Thursday, Mr. Famuboni dropped a hint that what had happened was just a tip of an ice-berg.

He said that more changes were forthcoming and appealed to employees to co-operate with him.

Mr. Famuboni was not at his desk yesterday morning when the *New Nigerian* called.

All staff of the council have been ordered to stop giving out information to anyone. A circular letter No NSC/0A/C/19/104 dated September 12, 1985, signed by Mr. S.O. Akujobi, threatened serious action against any NSC worker who leaks "open or coded information."

NIGERIA

TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED SEEKS NEW ENERGY SOURCES

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 14 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Chris Nnoli]

[Text] The Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) has begun a search to alternative energy sources for telecommunications.

In collaboration with the Solar Energy Society of Nigeria (SESN) NITEL is gathering a crop of energy experts in the country to discuss the prospects and problems of various energy sources for telecommunications.

A research and development official of NITEL in an interview with Daily Times said the search which had gone on for some time now was necessitated by the organisation's desire to improve its services to the nation and cut costs, both in local and foreign exchange.

To help in its services, NITEL has boosting units called Repeater Stations which help to boost messages in transmission, so that it doesn't depreciate.

But the problems of intermittent supply of power from NEPA and high cost of maintaining diesel generators in rural areas meant that NITEL should look elsewhere for alternative energy source.

And according to the official, NITEL is looking for alternative sources that will not require regular maintenance.

This means that some of the energy options before NITEL are Wind, Tide, Solar and Biomass.

And out of these, considering geography and extensive NITEL services, the focus will be on Wind and Solar, especially as research efforts both here and abroad have shown that they are viable.

But the NITEL official said that as promising as those energy options are, there are still problems to be resolved. "It is in the light of these problems," the official said, "that the NITEL is organising the energy seminar and bringing together energy experts.

CSO: 3400/83

NIGERIA

NEW APPROACH TO COUNTER TRADE BUSINESS CALLED FOR

Lagos SUNDAY TIMES in English 15 Sep 85 p 3

[Text] The chairman and managing director of OAC, Nigeria Ltd, Chief E.A.O. Shonekan, has advocated the adoption of "company to company" counter-trade deals rather than the "country to country" approach hitherto adopted by Nigeria.

In a lecture on counter-trade at the Calabar Lions Club Guest Speaker's Nite last week, Chief Shonekan said that such "company to company" would ensure better value for money and provide access to raw materials from the most appropriate countries.

"If government feels that it must engage in "country to country" counter-trading then Nigeria should not use "middlemen" in her counter-trade arrangements since this is both restrictive and expensive, he said.

He said that should the country be involved in counter-trading, then it should be one deal at a time at moderate financial levels, so that its failure would not unduly damage the economy, noting that even with experienced participants, only about ten percent of the deals were successful.

Chief Shonekan said that in spite of many arguments against counter-trade, it had come to stay because "whether you are a country or company, if you do not counter-trade and your competitors do, then you will be at a competitive disadvantage and lose business."

He said that the country should not use counter-trade to finance the import of food stuff or consumer products but for establishing long-term contracts for supply of essential raw materials, components, spare parts, plant and machinery to help develop the economy.

CSO: 3400/82

NIGERIA

ABACHA WARNS ARMY OFFICERS TO STOP LOBBYING

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 11 Sep 85 p 9

[Article by Sehinde Dagunduro]

[Text]

THE Chief of Army Staff, Major General Sani Abacha on Monday in Ibadan warned all categories of army officers to desist forthwith from all act of lobbying for appointment and posting.

Addressing officers at the headquarters of the 2nd Mechanised Division Agodi, he said such act would not held issues as they are now placed before the new administration.

Major General Abacha said the recent change in government will certainly necessitate the redeployment of some officers and men to ensure effectiveness of command and in view of this in the interest of the nation there should be no attempt by anyone to resist normal posting as may be given out.

"It will certainly warn against the now endemic practice of lobbying for appointment and-postings by some officers. It is not in the least interest to the well-being of the Nigerian Army in particular and our nation in general," he said.

The army chief said he was also aware of the deplorable state of the general outfit of most officers and men due to lack of uniforms. "I can assure you this and other related issues will be looked into with the maximum despatch."

Major General Abacha urged the soldiers to be battle ready at all times not only in conformity with their traditional role in defence of the country but in full support of the foreign policy of the new administration which has Africa as its cornerstone.

CSO: 3400/82

NIGERIA

ENGINEERS CALL FOR PETROLEUM CORPORATION OVERHAUL

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 13 Sep 85 p 1

[Text] The Nigerian Society of Engineers has called for the restructuring of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) "to enhance profitability, efficiency and dynamism rather than the present premium on quota."

In addition, the NNPC should be headed by competent and experienced COREN registered engineer in oil technology.

The call was contained in a sixteen-point communique issued by the society after its seminar on "the Petrochemical Industry and the Nigerian economy."

The society also stressed the need by government to always site petrochemical projects based on thorough feasibility study, rather than sentiments by "powerful" individuals or on tribal considerations.

The communique also said Petrochemical plants must be handled exclusively by competent and experienced Nigerians, stressing that Nigeria could only be developed by Nigerians.

Emphasis

It emphasised that the chief executives of government-owned oil companies should not be allowed to stay in their positions for more than five years while the companies' accounts should be audited yearly and all personnel should go on leave yearly.

On the press side, the communique stated that all advertisements for companies to work with the government on petrochemical plants should appear in local dailies and not in Financial Times or London Times.

CSO: 3400/82

NIGERIA

THREE SENIOR JUDGE ADVOCATES SWORN IN

Enugu DAILY STAR in English 11 Sep 85 p 1

[Article by Dom Ekpunobi]

[Text]

THREE newly selected Senior Advocates of Nigeria were on Monday in Lagos sworn in by the Chief Justice of the Federation, Justice Sodeinde Sowemimo.

They are, Alhaji Abdul Galiyu, Folorunso Abdul-Razaq, and Mr Clément Obiorah Akpamgbó.

Justice Sowemimo disclosed that there were now many qualified candidates out of which the three recipients were selected by the legal privileges committee.

He remarked that the legal practitioners committee was not bound by minimum or maximum standard in its selection of practitioners to be elevated to the rank of senior advocate of Nigeria.

He congratulated the three senior advocates and urged them to live up to expectation.

Also speaking at the occasion, another senior advocate of Nigeria, Chief Rotimi Williams, expressed appreciation for the declaration by the present Federal Military Government to listen to useful suggestions in the governance of the country.

He advised that the government should take into consideration the appointment of someone who has attained the rank of a senior advocate for the post of the Attorney-General of the Federation.

Chief Williams argued that the consideration was necessary if the new Attorney-General must reflect the expected leadership role of such appointee.

CSO: 3400/79

NIGERIA

BRIEFS

AIR FORCE EXPLAINS PROMOTIONS--The Nigerian Air Force has promoted 147 officers in its first major promotion this year. Fifty seven Flight Lieutenants were promoted to the rank of Squadron Leaders while 90 Flying Officers were elevated to Flight Lieutenants. A statement from the Air Force Public Relations and Information Department said that the promotion took effect from July this year. The rank of Flying Officer is an equivalent of Lieutenant in the Nigerian Army, while Squadron Leader equates with Major. The statement however, explained that promotions in the Air Force were considered mainly on course mate basis. It also said that other considerations include time, passes in promotion examinations and the confidential report on the specific officer. The statement said it usually takes a Flying Officer four years to become a Flight Lieutenant and a Flight Lieutenant a period of five years to become squadron leader. [Text] [Kaduna SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN in English 15 Sep 85 p 4]

PAPER SPONSORS IMF DEBATE--IMF Loan: To take or not to take? That is the question President Ibrahim Babangida has thrown open for debate. We, therefore, request those who are knowledgeable about the subject to send their contributions to the Daily Times. Such articles should not be longer than four fullscap pages typed double-spacing or 1,350 words. Seize this opportunity to make your views known. [Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 14 Sep 85 p 1]

AVIATION FUEL SHORTAGE--Aviation fuel shortage, which slowed down flight operations of the Nigeria Airways on Thursday, continued yesterday with a slight improvement. According to a newspaper report, the fuel shortage was traced by NNPC authorities to a malfunction at a pumping station at Ejigbo near Lagos. Investigations revealed that the shortage started on Tuesday and affected most of the depots where Nigeria Airways aircraft lift fuel. Some of these are Kano, Kaduna, Yola, Maiduguri, Jos and Abuja. As a result, most Nigeria Airways flights leaving Lagos have to carry extra fuel for their return trips and consequently cut down on passenger load. This cut resulted in congestion at the domestic terminal of the Murtala Muhammed Airport causing many passengers to seek alternative means of traveling. Investigation showed that the situation affected private charter airlines. Officials spoken to said they were trying their best to contain the situation. In a telephone interview, however, Mr

O. Ogunyemi, who is in charge of aviation fuel at the National Oil Company which supplies fuel to the Nigeria Airways, said he was unaware of any shortage of fuel in the northern area. [Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 14 Sep 85 p 1]

CSO: 3400/84

SENEGAL

MEASURES FOR DEVELOPING FISHING INDUSTRY DISCUSSED

New Equipment Needed

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 3 Sep 85 p 8

[Article by Daouda Sow]

[Text] The modernization of infrastructure and revision of the structures in the fishing sector are the key factors in reviving this activity, which occupies our river banks and the ocean in all seasons.

The economic potential could be proportional to the human potential if only there existed the handling facilities to avoid dependency on the fish wholesale merchants. This would enable Saint-Louis to regain a key role in this sector.

The state, seeking to improve local fishing operations in Saint-Louis, plans to modernize the sector by providing fishermen with more modern equipment including long-range boats with high-performance engines (diesel) so they can go where the sea is rougher.

The energy of the fishermen and their knowledge of their trade deserves much more effective equipment in order to have a genuine local industry that can develop from semi-industrial to industrial fishing. The foreign boats (freezer ships) are examples to emulate. They should prompt us to revive fishing in the northern area. To do this we need to limit the foreign boats that come regularly to Saint-Louis to recruit labor for voyages of about 45 days. The catch of each voyage, estimated at 150,000 tons, is sold at Las Palmas for 1,000 francs per kilogram, or 130 million francs for the 45 days.

The signing on of fishermen in three foreign boats at Saint-Louis had posed security and contract problems for several years. Aware of this situation, the regional sea fishing service, under the authority of the regional administration, took measures to protect the security and interests of the fishermen. Thus, prior to each voyage the shipowner must have a legal contract to avoid clandestine hirings, and must also provide to the fishermen during their time at sea: food, lodging, fuel and maintenance of engines. Since these contracts were set up, things have been proceeding smoothly between fishermen and shipowners.

In 1984 the regional fishing service performed a count of boats participating in the 1984 season: 2,039 boats with engines, 40 boats with sail, 2,081 using fishing nets, 25 using lines, and 67 using rotating seines.

The government is to be praised for maintaining the subsidy of duty-free fuel, despite the country's situation. It is sold to the fishermen at 160 francs per liter. However, there has been some loss of this fuel, despite the vigilance of the fishing service officials. Several cases of fraud have been detected at stations, among fishermen above Diama, and by some transporters. Thanks to the customs service, this traffic has been reduced considerably.

In order to minimize the subsidy for fuel, the government plans to reduce the operation costs of fishing to the strict minimum. Thus, very economical diesel engines will be made available to fisherman, enabling an 80-percent saving in fuel.

Generally speaking, fish product development faces great difficulties in the northern region. The most serious problem has two factors. First, the fisherman has frequent engine breakdowns, with maintenance made difficult by severe shortage of spare parts. Also, fishermen are no longer motivated, because preservation is expensive since the closing of SOFRINORD, and ice sells at 1,500 francs a cake.

To this must be added the roughness of the sea, which makes steering difficult. Though aware of the danger they run, the fishermen are still reluctant to wear life jackets.

Also, to all these problems are added the pirate boats, which have long profited from the weakness of the service in charge to illegally fish our waters in the most productive areas. This danger has almost been removed by the support of the national navy in carrying out an intensified watch over the territorial waters. We might make early mention of other efforts paralleling the untiring work of the national navy: an ultra-modern plane able to precisely identify violating boats at a range of 100 to 250 kilometers.

Measures To Increase Production

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 4 Sep 85 p 8

[Article by Daouda Sow]

[Text] Processing of fishing products, in addition to the supply function, has a significant role in feeding all elements of the population. The finished product is consumed especially by the people hard hit by the drought. The region uses for its daily needs more than half the annual production, or about 378 tons.

Processing has an important role in that it absorbs the fishing production surplus and at the same time produces substantial earnings. In view of these benefits, the State Secretariat for Scientific and Technical Research has financed a 100-square-meter solar drier for drying fish, also responding to the hopes of the 500 women handling the fishing product processing. In addition to this solar drier, with which the women can process a ton of fish

every 48 hours, a refrigeration unit financed by the Saint-Louis international plan will be provided to the hard-working citizens.

Processing of salt-dried fish is the specialty of the Saint-Louis people, and 95 percent of the product is exported every year. It should be noted that the local people have begun to use it.

During the 1984 season, the women faced a marketing problem due to lack of a trade organization. Thus, they were victims of swindling; that is, false buyers took their products and did not return. This problem was tackled by the fishing cooperative, which organized a monopoly of the finished product by setting the prices, and selected weighers, so that everything has returned to an orderly situation.

It should also be mentioned that the state secretary for sea fishing has spared no effort to repair, equip and provide electricity for all the processing shops in the region.

The operation of fishing cooperatives is well organized as a whole. It is a regional union composed of six cooperatives, of which four [words missing] Diouf, each time it is necessary to make a tour of the fishing centers to get the fishermen to settle their debts.

The fishing sector is in full swing and has a promising future. However, we must not be complacent, because there are several problems at both the small-scale and industrial levels.

To support production we must produce a sufficient quantity while maintaining the natural balance. On the basis of more thorough research of our fish resources, we must assure both replacement of our stocks and protection of our territorial waters. And finally, help the fishermen obtain adequate means for their production.

Along with production, we must have the handling structures for processing and preservation. Also, there must be a distribution network, reaching also the most remote places.

9920

CSO: 3419/603

SENEGAL

RURAL TOURISM, TOURIST CAMPS IN CASAMANCE

Paris LE MONDE in French 17 Aug 85 p 1

[Article by Muriel Scibilia: "In a Hut in Casamance"]

[Text] Nine villages join to manage tourist camps
built by traditional methods.

The men are coming back from the rice fields or from backwater fishing; the women are crisscrossing the trails, bent under bundles of deadwood. When they meet, they greet each other: "Kassoumaye" (welcome). And, like a song rising from the earth, the cheerful melody of these endlessly repeated greetings mingles with the murmurs of nightfall. Kassoumaye Casamance!

Hidden between Gambia and Guinea, this region of southern Senegal, which extends over 400 km like the river that gave it its name, unfolds a thousand and one charms. The traveller is grabbed by the radiant beauty of the landscape: bastard mahogany, silk-cotton tree, palm-tree and liana forests; checkerboards of rice fields, mazes of creeks that disappear into the mangrove; flights of white pelicans, gulls and seagulls.

But, to discover Casamance fully, you must linger in its villages and live with its people. The ideal way to do it is still that of integrated rural tourism. A pilot experiment which, for over 10 years, has tried to promote a different type of tourism, based on contacts and exchanges, while promoting the region's development.

To achieve this, nine villages jointly operate and manage tourist camps they built with traditional materials and methods. Built on the model of village huts, with a modest aid from outside (FF 48 million), these sites--which are designed to accommodate 30 to 40 people--testify to the harmony and diversity of Casamance housing: cosiness of the impluvium of Enampore, a circular hut with a double roof whose inner slopes are inclined toward a patio; majesty of the impluvium of Affiniam; sophistication of the two-story hut of Oussouye, with its stairs and its verandas; austerity of the fortress-hut of Abene.

To give a new value to traditional housing while guaranteeing a minimum of comfort, to avoid disfiguring the environment, and to facilitate the visitors' integration, such was the ambition of C. Saglio, the promoter of this project. He did it. Contrary to pessimistic forecasts (some doubted that Westerners

would like to live in "true huts"), this formula is a huge success with an increasingly diversified clientele: close to 23,000 visitors in 1983.

Conquered by the rustic charm of these earthen houses and by the warm welcome of the personnel, the tourists soon get used to living without electricity, to saving the water so painstakingly fetched, to sleeping in the cocoon of mosquito nets, to eating in rough wood plates, seated on a mat.

No Phony Staging

Apart from excursions in pirogues and the visit of villages, no show is staged, for the golden rule of rural tourism is that you should never stage ceremonies or dances "for the tourists," to prevent these ritual events from turning into artificial shows.

On the other hand, whenever possible, those who wish to do so may participate in the daily activities of the village. They are taken along fishing or hunting; they are initiated to African cooking and African music, or they are taught how to use the kayendo (a sort of long spade). They are invited to all the festivities: harvest festival, marriages, initiation, fertility rites, etc. And the natives are sincerely delighted when tourists forget their fear of being ridiculed and join in the dance.

Mealtime is a privileged moment that punctuates camp life. After a full day, all meet around grilled oysters or yaasa chicken. The conversations are lively. Little by little, some villagers join their guests. By the end of the meal, some go for a walk, others sit around the manager to drink tea or bunuck (palm wine). Faces worn out by the sun relax slowly by the light of storm-lanterns. The thumping of the tomtom mingles with the rustling of the water. It is "palaver" time. Meeting time.

Self-Management "the Diola Way"

To better understand the local history and way of life, you must witness the interminable "conferences" that start on public squares and in the yards of houses. Old people, each in his own way, tell about the foundation of villages, the epic resistance to the Mandingues, then to the colonists.

Representing a majority west of the Casamance River, the Diola, known for their love of independence and their regionalism, have remained very much attached to their traditions. Reconciling Islam and animism, this people of farmers will consult fetishes as well as marabouts, and jealously watch over its sacred groves (where initiation ceremonies take place in the utmost secret). Social life, structured by many religious, economic and political groups, is dominated by a commitment to mutual aid.

This organization was a major asset in setting up the camps and then in ensuring the success of self-management "the Diola way." A management council elected by the community and supervised by a board of directors (consisting of notables) runs them.

But the most original aspect of this undertaking is that all profits are paid to the villagers who use them as they see fit (net profits in 1983: FF 36 million). Defining their priorities at an annual meeting, they first voted in favor of sociocultural projects: schools, mosks, clinics, maternity hospitals. They are now turning to productive activities that could slow down the rural exodus: fishing, livestock raising, truck farming and craftsmen cooperatives. Recently, they created the Senegalese Association for Integrated Rural Development (ASDRI). The goal of this non-government organization (ONG) is to enter into partnership relations with European ONGs in order to finance various development projects.

The success of this experiment tends to make us forget the problems that marked its beginnings. The promoters, who wanted to secure the people's actual participation, encountered its distrust and even its hostility. "Just for the Enampore camp, we had to organize close to 50 meetings before we got their agreement," Mr A. Goudiaby, regional coordinator of rural tourism, remembers. But thanks to the dynamism and patience of the officials, the Casamance people became enthusiastic about the venture.

Yet, most are aware of the need for vigilance to prevent it from being diverted from its initial objectives. "We must educate the people and the tourists if we are to avoid the faults of traditional tourism: lack of mutual understanding, begging, delinquance and prostitution," A. Goudiaby added.

But if villagers are eager to safeguard their ethics and their dignity, children are more vulnerable. Eager to "rub elbows" with foreigners, charmed by their affluence, they always find ways to meet them to "talk" or "offer" them shells and coconuts. And, aware of the prevailing poverty, very few tourists resist the pleasure of giving them some change. It is not so much the gifts as their daily repetition that deteriorates social relations and develops a welfare mentality. "We do not want our children to become beggars," the head of the village of Elinkine explained. "If tourists want to make presents, they should give them to local officials who will distribute them equitably."

Photographs are also a major cause of concern. Indeed, the people feels increasingly uncomfortable with being bombarded by photographers. "It is painful to be considered as a strange animal," a schoolteacher confided. "Some amateurs will even invade our privacy to bring back interesting photographs." On the other hand, as soon as a relationship starts, villagers let themselves be photographed with good grace.

All are convinced that information and dialogue can solve these few misunderstandings inherent to the confrontation of two cultures. And it is precisely in this attempt to work at a rapprochement between nations that the strength and the originality of this experiment reside.

9294
CSO: 3419/561

TOGO

POLITICAL STABILITY USHERS IN 16TH ANNIVERSARY

Lome LA NOUVELLE MARCHE in French 31 Aug 85 pp 1, 4

[Article by Mawuko Akeutey]

[Text] Gathered around their illustrious leader, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, yesterday, all Togolese celebrated the 16th anniversary of the historic Kpalime appeal. It was an opportunity for them to reaffirm their unswerving attachment to the man who gave everything, risking his own life, so that Togo might experience happiness, peace and solidarity, with unity.

Anyone with any idea of the anarchy and division the Togolese people suffered before the coming of the great unifier that Eyadema is knows what a challenge it was, a challenge that has now been won. Peace reigns among us and without any discrimination, we live in peace and are tackling the tasks of socio-economic development, with open, active and militant brotherhood..

Today, our greatest triumph remains our national unity, the guarantee of peace, solidarity and above all, political stability, without which no development is possible. If our country now enjoys a following that compels admiration throughout the world, if it is called the "Switzerland of Africa," if Lome has become a center of tourism, a hub of international assemblies, a chosen spot for international forums and business meetings, it is not at all by chance. Rather, it is the fruit of tireless work performed daily by all the Togolese rallying around General Eyadema.

The call for national unity, peace and solidarity was therefore heard by all Togolese. Defining the objectives of this vast movement on that day, Eyadema spoke to all Togolese: "This rally that I propose today will be a rally of all men of good will, whether they be new or our followers, who must work for a total change in thinking for the effective unity and solidarity of all Togolese.

"Togo will be the high place of free and democratic dialogue, ensuring the real participation of every citizen in the work of political peace and the basic reorganization of our economy."

The historic summons of Kpalime, whose 16th anniversary we now celebrate, has borne its fruit. The Rally of the Togolese People (RPT) has opened the doors

of happiness and prosperity. After 16 years of existence, the record could not be more positive and no one can now deny the maturity of our avant-garde party; it has withstood the test and spectacularly. Now that the political vacuum has been filled and in order to successfully undertake the grandiose task of our development, the RPT has called us together. In it, we have come to know one another and to fraternize with one another.

Today, the collective will has been mobilized for every manner of development task. The guardian of our union, the RPT presides over the construction of our dear nation, the realization of national solidarity. A firm supporter of democracy, President Eyadema has chosen to govern the country in close cooperation with all Togolese. The institutionalization of the Third Republic is eloquent proof of this.

Since he came to power 19 years ago, President Eyadema has taken up the task of rebuilding a Togo divided by tribalism and regionalism erected into a system of government by the old political authorities. Thanks to a vigorous policy of unity and national reconciliation, distrust rapidly gave way to trust. Thus it was that the Togolese nation was slowly but surely reborn, a nation whose institutions would be strengthened year after year.

On the socioeconomic level, it has been a difficult fight. Reorganization of the government's finances has led to a balanced budget which, once pitifully small and always showing a deficit, would subsequently enjoy spectacular growth. For this fiscal year, the budget totals 81,890,014,000 CFA francs, an increase of 6.64 percent over the 1984 fiscal year, despite inflation, the deterioration in the terms of trade and above all, the international economic crisis.

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of national liberation, asking us to continue the liberating fight within the RPT, President Eyadema said: "The peace, unity and political stability that we have instituted and to which we are so firmly attached remain the surest factors of our common fulfillment. They have generated fruits that now give rise to the admiration, respect and pride of all Togolese. They also constitute the strength and most solid rampart against the threat of fratricidal struggles, insecurity, anarchy and antagonism facing our world."

A necessary and indispensable condition for work and therefore, development, that peace, so dearly won and so jealously preserved, must be safeguarded, at any price. With Eyadema and with constant vigilance and foresight.

11,464
CSO: 3419/578

TOGO

BRIEFS

SOVIET CEMENT TO WORKERS--Yesterday afternoon, the Labor Exchange was the scene of a ceremony at which the Central Soviet Trade Union Council (CCSS) presented the National Confederation of Togolese Workers (CNTT) with 1,000 tons of cement. The gift symbolizes the good relations of friendship and cooperation linking the two organizations. In making the presentation, Serge Chaverdian, Soviet ambassador to Togo, expressed the hope that "this gift will help the noble cause of workers' education, which is part of the building of the new united and solidarity Togo, under the clear-sighted leadership of the president and founder of the RPT [Togolese People's Rally], Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema. On behalf of his country, the Soviet ambassador praised the efforts of the Togolese president on peace, national solidarity and political stability, the indispensable conditions of socioeconomic development. He expressed his happiness at seeing that the USSR and Togo have similar views on all problems of strengthening international peace and cooperation. In response to the Soviet ambassador, the secretary general of the CNTT, Nangbog Barnabo, thanked the Central Soviet Trade Union Council on behalf of the Executive Committee of the CNTT and all Togolese workers for this important aid, which will be used wisely, he said. After a brief review of previous gifts our country has received from the USSR, the secretary general of the CNTT expressed the hope that the bonds of cooperation, friendship and solidarity between the CNTT and the CCSS will continue and be strengthened in a spirit of peace. [Text] [Lome LA NOUVELLE MARCHE in French 6 Sep 85 pp 1, 7] 11,464

NEW APPOINTMENTS--By written order of the president of the republic: Capt Madji Kodjo Ayassou, officer of the Gendarmerie and previously prefect of Tchamba, is hereby appointed director of national security, replacing Kodjo Assinguime. Bassouma Lamboni, police commissioner, is hereby named first deputy to the director of national security. Lt Pitalou-Ani Laokpessi, officer of the Gendarmerie, is hereby named second deputy to the director of national security! By another written order of the president of the republic: Nangbog Barnabo, bank official, is hereby named general director of the National Social Security Fund, replacing Kwassivi Kpetigo. [Text] [Lome LA NOUVELLE MARCHE in French 21 Aug 85 p 1] 11,464

CSO: 3419/578

ZAIRE

TANGANYIKA REGIONAL CHIEF ON AREA'S PROGRESS

Lumbumbashi MJUMBE in French 30 Jul 85 p 3

[Interview with Dinkulu Makonda, chief of the Tanganyika subregional administration, by MJUMBE correspondent Tchomba Kabondo; date and place not specified]

[Text] On 1 December 1984, Kalemie welcomed citizen Dinkulu Makonda, the new chief of the Tanganyika subregional administration. Dinkulu came from Kasaji, in the Lualaba subregion, where he had exercised the same functions for several years.

Seven months after his installation at the head of this administrative entity, Dinkulu is primarily working towards an increase in agricultural production and progress in all fields of subregional socioeconomic life. From this perspective, he intends, among other things, to channel farmers into production, sales and consumers' cooperatives. The subregional president of the MPR [Popular Movement of the Revolution] /Tanganyika feels this organization should give beneficiaries the possibilities and means of solving a great number of their problems alone.

Below is the complete interview Dinkulu was willing to grant to our colleague.

[Question] You have been at the head of the party and this administrative entity for nearly 7 months. How do you see the socioeconomic and political situation in Tanganyika compared to that of Lualaba?

[Answer] It is difficult to make a comparison. Each region has its distinctive characteristics. Otherwise, on the whole, I am satisfied with the evolution of political activities in the Tanganyika subregion. Nevertheless, I have noticed that there is insufficient information. It is for that reason that, according to the instructions sent to us by the regional party president, we have expanded a series of ideological seminars in favor of basic committees. By that we mean mothers, sectional and subsectional presidents of public and private undertakings, as well as the JMPR [Youth of the Popular Movement of the Revolution]/ Labor committees.

On the economic level, I believe there are no comments to make. Agricultural statistics, at the sixth regional conference, say a great deal about it. Whether it is a question of corn, manioc, peanut or potato production, etc... The same is true for stock farming, both for cattle and smaller livestock, as well as fishing.

On the social level, you should recall that the epidemics that shook the subregion in past years have nearly disappeared as a result of the efforts made by medical officials at all levels.

[Question] "Give me a good economy, [and] I will provide a good policy." You stated this before the members of the ANEZA [National Association of Zairian Enterprises] /Tanganyika during a reception organized in your honor at the Lake Hotel restaurant. What had you wanted to suggest by this?

[Answer] By this little sentence, I wanted to say that I can indeed only lead where there are men who have sound minds in sound bodies, namely, people who are in perfect health and who eat plentifully. The party's objectives can only be achieved, in fact, by men fulfilling these conditions.

[Question] The Tanganyika subregion remains unquestionably the granary of the Shaba, thanks to its agricultural, agropastoral and other potential. What does your program of action envisage in order to respond legitimately to the requirements of Marshall Mobutu's third 7-year term basically centered around social issues?

[Answer] Continuing to increase production in all fields. In addition, channeling farmers into production, sales and consumers' cooperatives. This organization will have to give beneficiaries the power to independently solve a great number of [the] economico-social problems confronting them.

[Question] Tanganika, particularly Kalemie, is a subregion where basic products are very expensive. This is an observation you yourself have already made. To what do you attribute this situation? And what are the preparations envisaged to contain this scourge?

[Answer] Basic articles, in fact, are expensive in Kalemie. I believe that this is a passing situation. Passing, to the extent that the situation we lived through in the months of November and December 1984 put us somewhat at a disadvantage. Now that life has resumed its normal course, the economic operators who hesitated to send their products to Kalemie have resumed their activities.

It goes without saying that when there are plenty of goods, as we already note, the law of supply and demand will apply and prices will go down by themselves.

[Question] The (national) economic operators within your jurisdiction complain that agricultural credits are granted only to foreigners. How do you explain this discriminatory policy?

[Answer] It is a problem of trust between the economic operators and the bankers. For the latter grant credits only to those who pay back in the agreed time period. That is all.

[Question] How do you foresee Tanganyika's future?

[Answer] I am an optimist. I hope that everything will work out for the best: agricultural production will increase, [as for] the managerial staff at all levels, everyone will do his best in his field of activity.

[Question] Your message?

[Answer] What I can ask of all my colleagues is that everyone should make his contribution to the building up of our subregion, as the president/founder continues to repeat in the "Moto na moto abongisa."

9434

CSO: 3419/568

ZAIRE

GECAMINES STATISTICS FOR 1979-83 RELEASED

Lubumbashi MJUMBE in French 29 Jul 85 p 6

[Article by Mfuamba Tambue: "Somewhere Between a Slight Reduction and a Gradual Growth"]

[Text] Our statistics demonstrate that the GECAMINES [General Quarries and Mines Company] mineral production over the last 5 years (not including 1984 and 1985) has experienced a slight reduction (for a certain classification of minerals) and a gradual growth for others. If this slight reduction is sometimes a result of the current economic situation (monetary re-adjustment, lack of foreign exchange, etc.), the growth of production is, according to them, encouraged by the constant improvement of working conditions (modern equipment).

One is aware that manual labor has been noticeably eased thanks to modernization of the equipment. This is the case at the underground Kipushi mine where a new transportation and mineral processing complex has been in service at the level of 1,150 meters since July 1983. The extraction from this mine is currently accomplished totally by a skip from one extraction shaft.

Fine Metals

According to the annual report recently published by GECAMINES for the period ending 31 December 1983, this important state corporation produced during this period 465,800 tons of copper, 5,370 tons of cobalt, 62,535 tons of zinc, 308 tons of cadmium, 39,501 kg of silver, 43 kg of gold and 23,195 kg of germanium. Comparable production in 1982 was 466,400 tons, 5,573 tons, 64,400 tons, 281 tons, 59,200 kg and 86 kg. As for copper, the 1983 production was very close to that of 1982, thus representing a slight reduction of 600 tons. Copper ingot production rose by 52,000 tons in comparison to that of 1982 (14,482 tons).

In the case of cobalt, 1980 was a record year, with 14,482 tons, in comparison to 9 years of production - 1975 to 1983. Nevertheless one notes that 5,370 tons of cobalt were produced in 1983 as compared to 5,573 in 1982 and 11,124 tons in 1981.

Due to technical difficulties, the production of zinc in 1983 was at a lower level than that of the preceding period. But by comparison with the results of 1981, 1980, 1979 and 1978, 1983's production was on an average of 32 percent higher. As for cadmium, its recuperation was due to a better roasting of zinc concentrates. The production of the product (cadmium) reported in December 1983 was on the order of 308 tons as compared with 281 in 1982, 230 in 1981, 168 in 1980, 216 in 1979 and 186 in 1978.

The company also produced that same year 1,449 tons of manufactured products using copper and zinc. It also produced for its own use 99,432 tons of charcoal, 159,863 tons of sulphuric acid, 100,499 tons of lime and 12,221 tons of metallurgic cement.

Mineral Extraction

In 1983 strip mines produced 10,205,000 tons of minerals (63 per cent of the total supplied to the treatment plants) as compared to 8,506,000 tons in 1982, 9,708,000 tons in 1981, 8,611,000 tons in 1980 and 7,430,000 tons in 1979. In relation to 1982, the increase was 1,699,900 tons in 1983.

As for the underground mines at Kamoto, Kambove and Kipushi, they extracted a total of 6,030,000 tons of minerals in 1983 as compared to 5,755,000 tons in 1982 for an increase of 281,000 tons. The results of these underground mines for 1981, 1980 and 1979 respectively were 5,215,000 tons, 6,070,000 tons and 6,019,000 tons.

According to the GECAMINES annual report for 1983, the underground mine at Kamoto had produced 2.8 million tons of minerals as of 31 Decemeber 1983. This tonnage represented 94 per cent of the annual projections. But the percentage of copper on the order of 4.2 per cent rose 0.1 per cent in comparison to 1982. This increase was principally due to the better extraction yield obtained by the chamber and pillars method, especially in the vein of the deposit.

At Kambove, again according to the annual report, a significant amount of 1,722,000 tons of minerals were extracted in 1983. The same report adds that this tonnage was the highest since the beginning of this underground operation.

At Kipushi, the extraction rose to 1,465,000 tons in 1983, representing an increase of 5 per cent over that of 1982.

Treatment Plant Production

As for the treatment plants, the same report reveals that the western group treated a record amount of 13.6 million tons of minerals in 1983 of which 11.7 million were treated by flotation. The concentrated products represented 1,371,000 tons, including 399,400 tons of copper which represented 80 per cent of the total tonnage of copper recovered in the company's treatment plants.

Again according to the report, the treatment plants at Kambove and Kakanda in the central group treated all the local mineral production in 1983. The tonnages supplied were consistently higher than in the past. The recovery yields were higher. The concentrates were of good quality.

Let us also point out that the revision of the operating plan at the Kipushi treatment site allowed a good recovery yield of metals and a good quality of concentrates.

Metallurgical Plants

The recent statistics also show that the hydrometallurgical plant at Luilu treated 166,600 tons of copper and 3,400 tons of cobalt in 1983. At Kolwezi, production showed a slight decline (70,500 tons of cathodes producing 62,500 tons of ingots) in comparison to that of 1982 (72,600 tons of cathodes producing 64,400 tons of ingots).

At Lubumbashi, the pyrometallurgical plant processed the concentrates from Kipushi and Kambove as well as part of those from the west, using both fusion and converting processes. The total production of this plant was on the order of 160,300 tons of blister [flister] copper in 1983 for reprocessing.

The report reassures the reader that the refinery at Shituru treated 277,200 tons of electrolytic copper during the same period. This represents a 30 per cent increase over the preceding 1982 period. The same refinery also produced 37,900 tons of soluble anodes destined for hydrometallurgic circuits. The thermal refining of cobalt produced 1900 tons of granules in 1983. As far as can be ascertained, the production of certain minerals declined slightly in 1983 in comparison with previous years because of the cyclical and technical problems mentioned above. That is also the case for zinc and cobalt. But, as a whole, the production of minerals by GECAMINES, according to our statistics, have been steadily increasing. Copper ingots and cadmium are doing especially well.

12308

CSO: 3419/571

ZAIRE

1982-83 FARM FIGURES FOR LUALABA GIVEN

Lubumbashi MJUMBE in French 2 Aug 85 p 3

[Article by Mufindu Makaya: "52,429 Farmers Recorded During the 1982-1983 Season"]

[Text] The rural subregion of Lualaba recorded 52,429 farmers during the 1982-1983 farm season. Contrary to the 1978-1979 season, the subregion of Lualaba, which had only 37,563 farmers, has undergone a considerable increase amounting to 14,866 farmers.

Before the 80-day war the farm population was estimated at 46,764 farmers. The 1982-1983 census confirmed the fact that the economic operators of Shaba and elsewhere benefited during the 1982-1983 farm season from the services of 52,429 farmers distributed as follows: 23,647 in the Dilolo area, 11,973 in the Kapanga area and, lastly, 14,809 in the Sandoa area.

The mission of the agronomists and agricultural monitors who are found in all areas of the subregion is to respect the agricultural calendar. It is set up as follows: from 15 April to 15 May the setting aside of seed among the farmers, from 15 May to 31 July the determination of land set aside for cultivation by the agricultural monitors, from early August to 15 September clearing of the land, from 15 September to 15 December plowing and planting.

From 15 September to 15 November corn, beans and peanuts can be easily planted. From 15 December to 15 January rice, cotton and beans are cultivated.

The land areas that are allotted are the following: corn, 60 ares per farmer; cassava, 50 ares per farmer; peanuts, 20 ares per farmer; rice, 20 ares per farmer; beans, 20 ares per farmer; cotton, 60 ares per farmer.

But, considering the demand and the importance of the crops, some farmers easily have from 2 to 4 hectares of corn, cassava, or even of peanuts and rice under cultivation.

Mutonkole Kiyabo-Yabo; Kolwezi: Speculation at Its Height Due to Scarcity of Beer

Raw materials for the production of beer have become scarce. The scarcity of beer at the Simba Brewery in Kolwezi has recently increased speculation

throughout the town. Indeed: A case of Simba beer that used to cost 185 zaires at retail outlets now sells for 220 or even 240 zaires. At dance and snack bars a bottle of Simba costs 50 zaires.

Why this rise in price? To learn more about it, MJUMBE approached the manager of the head office in Kolwezi, Mr Boquet Jean-Pierre. Mr Boquet, who, moreover, has just discussed this problem with the inspector of economic affairs, stressed the fact that the price of beer has not changed. The brewery still continues to apply the price set for it by the country's higher authorities. Unfortunately, the head office in Kolwezi is operating on a slow schedule due to a shortage of fuel oil.

Mr Boquet added that consumption is relative to production. As a result of the liberalization measure decided on by the board of directors, the brewery's demand has been higher than usual. At present its operation depends only on the SEP [expansion unknown] of Zaire, its sole supplier of oil products. Meanwhile, speculation is at its height.

11,466

CSO: 3419/569

ZAIRE

KONGOLO YOUTH CAMP ACTIVITIES DISCUSSED

Governor Duga Visits Kongolo Camp

Lumbumbashi MJUMBE in French 30 Jul 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Senga Lokavu K.M.]

[Text] Usually referred to as Papa Duga by the youth of Shaba, citizen Duga Kugbe Toro, regional MPR [People's Movement of the Revolution] president and regional governor, once again proved himself worthy of the name by making the trip to Kongolo. As we reported in our recent editions, he offered his personal moral and material support to the 1,700 scouts from the towns and sub-regions of Shaba.

Last Saturday, the regional governor officially opened the 1985 work camp in Kongolo, which was organized by the regional JMPR-Shaba secretariat under the auspices of the regional authority.

In his opening ceremony speech, the regional executive head began by congratulating the youth of Shaba on the occasion of the JMPR's [Youth of the Popular Movement of the Revolution] 18th anniversary, which fell on the same day as the opening of the camp.

After glowingly praising Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, who created the JMPR 27 July 1967, the regional governor emphasized the political will of the father of the nation, which resulted in the creation of a frame of reference for young people which had been lacking. It is this framework, he said, which makes it possible today to organize, mobilize, raise the consciousness of and direct the country's youth toward the best possible future and to make them the vanguard of the revolution.

After acknowledging that the day's event was able to take place as a result of the peace and national unity established by Zaire's field marshal, the speaker told his young audience that, through their work in Kongolo, they were subscribing positively to the themes of the International Youth Year proclaimed by the United Nations, namely: participation, development and peace.

Accordingly, citizen Duga invited the youth of Shaba to insure the country's future by contributing to the preservation of peace. In this respect, he said, "You, as young people, must be the eyes and ears of the founding president of the MPR State-Party."

During their stay in Kongolo, which should last approximately one month, the boy and girl scouts of the Shaba-OEZA will undertake the maintenance of public buildings, the construction of a party temple, the renovation of a few brigades and roads serving farm areas and the construction of two classrooms and a dispensary. In addition to building a senior citizens home, the pioneers will construct a 13 ton metal bridge in the Katanga region...

Papa Duga, who promised a bonus to the sub-camp which earned the highest badge in the work camp, presented the sum of 60 thousand zaires to the organizers during the session: 50 as the regional authority's contribution and 10 for the girl's sub-camp.

In conclusion, the regional governor and his entourage visited the different work-projects being carried out by the young people as well as the different sub-camps, which group the young people according to sex, town and native sub-region. The regional governor returned to Lumbumbashi yesterday.

Kongolo: Young People Set the Example

Lumbumbashi MJUMBE in French 30 Jul 85 pp 1, 8

[Text]

[Editorial] The idea that it is adults, with their greater experience of life, who should set the example for young people is a well-established notion. It is true that wisdom, considered the appanage of the adult years, is of no value unless it is accompanied by concrete example. For this reason, pedagogues have said that an example is the best lesson we can give a child. Obviously, this means the adult is a model for young people, a model for living, of course, but more importantly, a model of a life worthy of being lived. This is the crisis of modern, western societies, whose young people question the soundness of their elder's values.

Therefore, against all expectations, we find the youth of Zaire, specifically the youth of Shaba, setting out to prove that "value is not determined by the number of years." There is no question that there are genuine values worth drawing attention to hearts of the 1,700 pioneers who have invaded Kongolo to devote themselves to public works.

The regional governor, citizen Duga Kugbe Toro, was well aware of this, and he officially congratulated them for the revolutionary enthusiasm they displayed in accepting this mission. This represents a real mission, one which the Authentic Zairian Revolution, under the direction of field marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, assigned to all youth of the People's Revolutionary Movement, namely, participation in the building of the nation. This entails preparing to take over the reins and preparing for the future.

To return to the values cited earlier, three are at least worth mentioning. The first value concerns the constructive spirit which characterizes both boy and girl scouts that have temporarily taken up residence in Kongolo. It is true that a great people is always a constructive people. When young people show a propensity to modify the environment in a positive fashion, for the welfare of all, one can only predict a secure future for the nation.

The second value relates to the age-old solidarity which the party head has re-established among our people and which should help create a nation where contradictions among members of the national community would be an opportunity to demonstrate this obvious fact, namely, unity within diversity. Finally, the third value is linked to the revolutionary enthusiasm which makes great men. Lukewarm, and therefore, people have always been composed of unenthusiastic men. Thus enthusiasm is a guarantee of success and it is safe to say that the pioneers based in Kongolo will be worthy of their country.

Under the circumstances, we feel that all those who established them deserve plaudits--both the regional authority and the Shaba-JMPR officials. In this case especially, there is absolutely no room for...false modesty!

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ZAIRE

13TH ANNIVERSARY OF GENDARMERIE MARKED

Lubumbashi MJUMBE in French 2 Aug 85 pp 1, 8

[Editorial by Magaribi Luzinga: "2,000 Zaires for Two Deserving Gendarmes"]

[Text] A big ceremonial parade was marked last Wednesday at Camp Vangu by the presentation to the public of a new military uniform for National Gendarmerie units in connection with the celebration of the 13th anniversary of its existence.

The regional chairman of the MPR[expansion not given] and governor of the region, Citizen Duga Kugbe Toro, enhanced the ceremony with his presence. The presence of two members of the Central Committee, Citizens Mulongo Misha Kabange and Mbundji Mulol, several people's commissars present in Lubumbashi and three secretaries of specialized branches of the party was also noted there. The acting urban commissar of Lubumbashi, Citizen Lufunisabo Budoki, was also present.

Taking advantage of the occasion, the commander of the Eighth Military District, Col Tshikudi Bakajika, set the tone of the ceremony. On that occasion he alluded to Executive Order No 82/31, at the end of which the president and founder put an end to the National Police to create the National Gendarmerie. He said that this order was merely aimed at better reorganization of the National Gendarmerie. Particular emphasis was laid on the role of effectively guaranteeing security, that is, the protection of individuals and their property.

Colonel Tshikudi then recalled our leader Mobutu's constant concern in this specific domain. This concern also enjoins us to maintain good relations between the gendarmes and the civilian population. He went on to say that this concern was supported by Central Committee Resolution No 32.

Colonel Tshikudi also spoke of the sacrifices all the gendarmes must make to effectively accomplish their mission. "Because," he said, "the service we perform demands a commitment to serve and to serve always."

Then the commander of the Eighth Military District verbally congratulated a senior warrant officer, Citizen Luneko, and a corporal, Citizen Yainda Massamba. These two were cited as models who should provide inspiration for all gendarmes in the exercise of their duties.

In fact, exactly 5 years ago Corporal Yainda Massamba performed an act of bravery in Pweto in the subregion of Haut-Shaba. He physically eliminated an undisciplined gendarme who had killed his superior, a lieutenant.

As for Warrant Officer Luneko and his team of three gendarmes, they fully accomplished the mission that had been assigned them. They apprehended the thieves who had burglarized the big seminary on the night of last 17-18 July in Lubumbashi. All the stolen objects were recovered.

The regional governor rewarded them on the spot for these revolutionary actions. He awarded Corporal Yainda Massamba the sum of 10,000 zaires followed by a decoration, a medal for bravery, and encouragement. Senior Warrant Officer Luneko received the sum of 10,000 zaires from the hands of the regional official, money that he must share with his team.

The ceremony was concluded with the awarding of gifts to the deserving parties in Kasapa.

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ZAIRE

BRIEFS

SHABA DEAD HONORED--As everywhere in Zaire, Shaba devoted yesterday morning to meditation in memory of our dead. Oddly, in Lubumbashi this great ceremony was presided over by the regional chairman of the MPR[expansion not given] and regional governor, Citizen Duga Kugbe Toro, at Sapins Cemetery. Several personages joined the activists to perform this noble duty. Among these personages we noted the presence of the members of the MPR Central Committee, the people's commissars present in Lubumbashi, the members of the regional and urban committees, those of the standing committee of the regional assembly and a delegation of expatriots living in Lubumbashi. The efforts made in Salongo every Saturday permitted activists as well as all foreign activists who live in Lubumbashi to meditate on the graves of their families shortly after the ceremony. In his speech for the occasion, the acting commissar of Lubumbashi, Citizen Lufunisabo Bundoki, rendered stirring homage to the father of the nation for having decided to again set value on an important African concept in connection with our philosophy of turning to authenticity. This African concept is the one that underlines in letters of gold the fact that "our dead are not dead." Then the regional MPR chairman and regional governor laid a spray of flowers on the tomb of the late Kayowa wa Kadima, the former assistant zone commissar, who died in 1978. [Excerpt] [Lubumbashi MJUMBE in French 2 Aug 85 pp 1, 8] 11466

CZECH MEDICAL AID--Assembled for a special session presided by the regional president, citizen Kabila Mulongo, members of the Red Cross/Shaba regional office officially accepted an important shipment of medicines, a gift of the Czech Red Cross. The people's commissioner, Mulonfo Mwepu Kazembe, second national vice-president of the Zairian Red Cross, presented this important shipment of pharmaceutical products last July 25. The ceremony was held in the Red Cross office. The members of the Red Cross regional office heartily thanked the Czech Red Cross for having thought of the rural population of the Upper Lomami sub-region. It was decided during the same session to dispatch these products to their destination for the benefit of the population concerned. [Excerpt] [Lumbumbashi MJUMBE in French 30 Jul 85 pp 1, 85] 9825

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